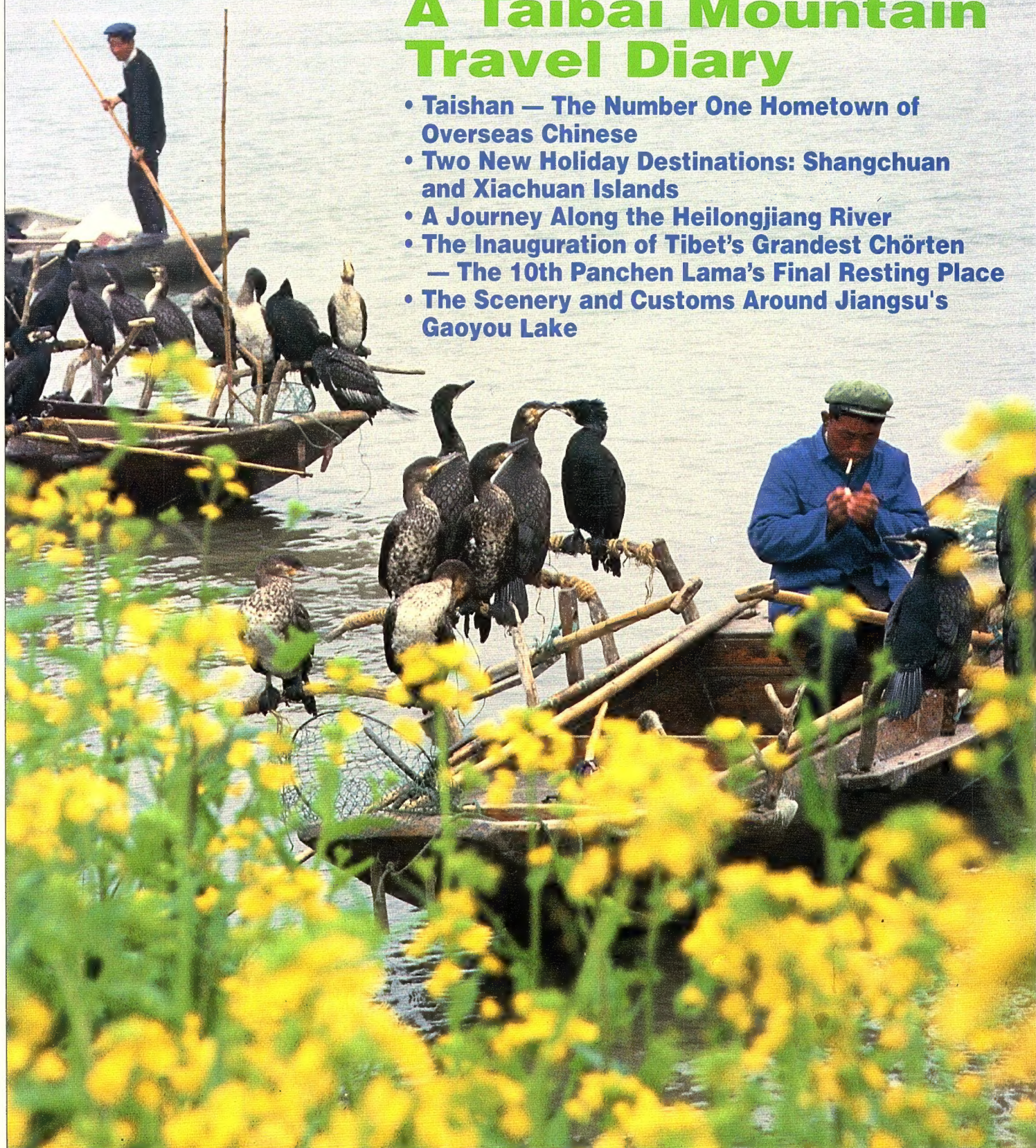


A Taibai Mountain Travel Diary

- Taishan — The Number One Hometown of Overseas Chinese
- Two New Holiday Destinations: Shangchuan and Xiachuan Islands
- A Journey Along the Heilongjiang River
- The Inauguration of Tibet's Grandest Chörten — The 10th Panchen Lama's Final Resting Place
- The Scenery and Customs Around Jiangsu's Gaoyou Lake



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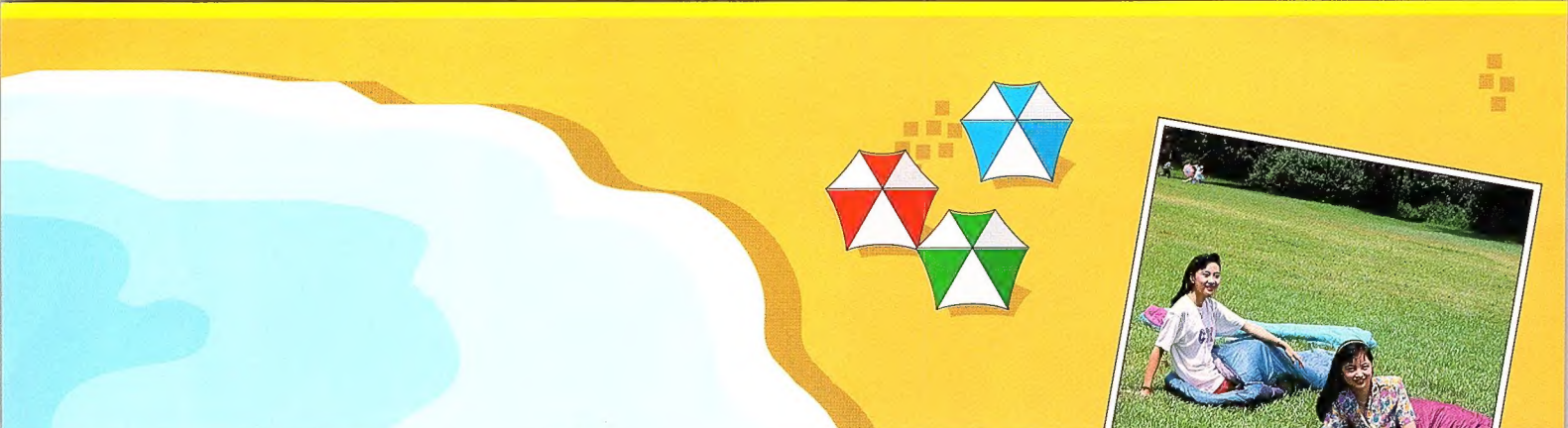
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=EDITORIAL=

Summer: The Best Season for Travel

Summer is here again, and with it come the inevitable thoughts of travel. From students who have long summer holidays to professionals who may only have a week or two of vacation time, anyone can find a suitable destination in the vast land that is China.

Would you like to escape the scorching heat of summer? A trip along the Heilongjiang River in the far northeast will keep you cool and bring you in direct contact with the bounty of nature. Or do you prefer to revel in the summer sun and spend your holiday basking on a beach? Xiachuan and Shangchuan Islands, very near Hong Kong, are an ideal choice. If you enjoy visiting old towns, Taishan, another spot near Hong Kong, might be of interest. Taishan is located just north of Xiachuan and Shangchuan Islands in Guangdong, and is a well-known hometown of thousands of overseas Chinese.

Or do you prefer a bit of adventure and exercise for your summer excursion? A climb up the towering and very challenging Taibai Mountain in Shaanxi Province will amply reward you with its extraordinary views. Another choice, for those who enjoy lakeside scenery, is the great Gaoyou Lake in Jiangsu Province, which one could visit in conjunction with a tour of this lovely and historic province.

This issue, then, has something to tantalize anyone trying to decide on where to go for their summer holiday. In addition, we are pleased to introduce our readers to an event of great importance in the Buddhist world: the inauguration of the chörten built to contain the holy body of Tibet's 10th Panchen Lama, who passed away some four years ago.

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Front Cover: Fishermen at Gaoyou Lake area ready to go fishing with the help of their cormorants (by Zheng Yunfeng)

LANDSCAPES AROUND CHINA

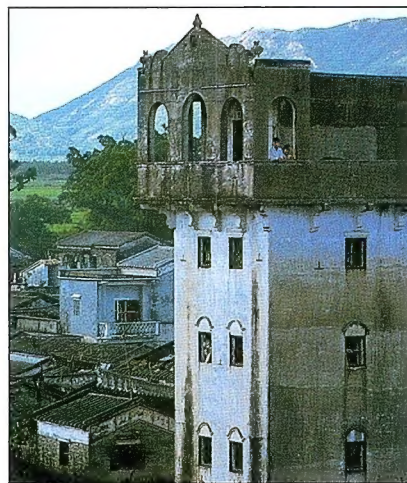


A Taibai Mountain Travel Diary

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Photos & Article by Hu Wugong

At 3,767 metres, Shaanxi Province's Taibai Mountain is the highest peak of the Qinling Mountain Range. It is so high, in fact, that even in summer there is still snow at the top, and for this reason July and August are the only months that one can scale its heights. Although not an easy mountain to climb, Taibai amply rewards those who venture up its slopes with wonderful scenery, clean fresh air and some curious historical sites.



Taishan — The Number One Hometown of Overseas Chinese

Photos & Article by Peng Zhen Ge

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Two New Holiday Destinations: Shangchuan and Xiachuan Islands

Article by Bao Xiu

30

The city of Taishan and the islands called Shangchuan and Xiachuan are all located a short distance from Hong Kong in the southern part of Guangdong Province. Taishan is a city known for its large number of citizens who have gone abroad to live but still retain close ties with their beloved hometown. It is also the place one must go in order to reach Xiachuan and Shangchuan Islands, two ideal places to visit for summer fun and sun. The beaches there are long, the water clean and the scenery bucolic.

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Printed in Hong Kong

News-stand price: HK\$38

A Journey Along the Heilongjiang River

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Article by Cheng Weidong & Wang Duoduo

The Heilongjiang River is the natural border delineating Russian territory and China's most northeastern province of Heilongjiang, and until recent years has been all but closed to visitors. In this river journey, we look at life along the mighty Heilongjiang, some of the minorities that inhabit its banks, and the new friendships being established between people from both sides of the border.



The Scenery and Customs Around Jiangsu's Gaoyou Lake

Photos by Zheng Yunfeng / Article by Hui Zi

66



Coastal Jiangsu Province abounds in rivers, lakes and waterways, including the well-known Grand Canal and vast Gaoyou Lake. Sitting next to the lake is Gaoyou City, which has a history dating back to 221 B.C. when Emperor Qin Shihuang first unified the country. Full of history, beautiful scenery and interesting local customs, the Gaoyou Lake area is a wonderful place for a summer visit.

SPECIAL REPORTS

The Inauguration of Tibet's Grandest Chörten — The 10th Panchen Lama's Final Resting Place

56

Photos & Article by Cheng Weidong

In the city of Xigazê in southern Tibet, an important ceremony was recently held to inaugurate the chörten built to contain the holy remains of the 10th Panchen Lama, who died over four years ago. This chörten — gilded and studded with 20,000 precious gems — is the most prized and magnificent in all of Tibet.





A Taibai Mountain Travel Diary

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY HU WUGONG



Taibai Mountain is the main peak of the Qinling Mountain Range, a natural boundary between China's subtropical zone and warm temperate zone. At 3,767 metres above sea level, some parks of the mountain range are still covered with snow even in summer (by Chen Xiaoping).



Taibai Mountain, the main peak of the Qinling Mountain Range in Shaanxi Province, is accessible only in July and August, for it is too high and too cold to climb during any other month. One July, therefore, I joined a team of 12 other people and spent almost a week climbing and trekking through Taibai's primeval forests. When we finally reached the top of the peak, which stands at 3,767 metres, we were rewarded with a view of exceptional beauty. What follows is the diary I kept of our exciting week on Taibai Mountain.

July 28

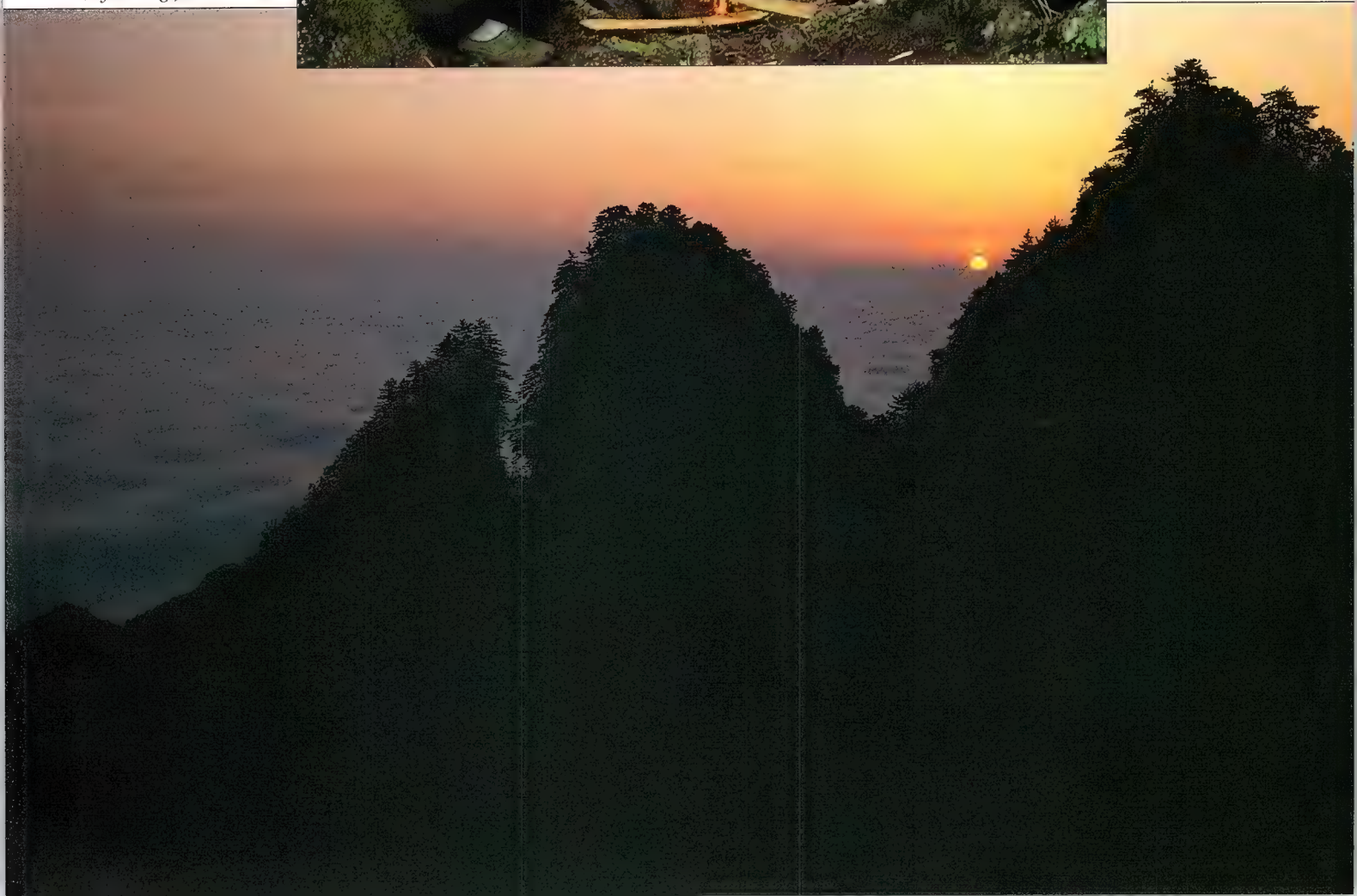
Early this morning we set off from the county seat of Zhouzhi, just west of Xi'an, in a mini-bus loaded with food and luggage. We drove

alongside the Heihe River and headed towards the Qinling Mountain Range. The road was much better than we had expected therefore we made good time, reaching the town of Houzhenzi before noon. The Heihe River, which runs parallel with the main street in the town, was so clear that one could see the colour of the pebbles in the river bed. On the other side of the river was a cliff with two rows of unusual holes: the upper row round and the lower row square. I was told that they were all that remained of an ancient plank road built along the face of the cliff. During the reign of the Han emperor Wudi (r. 140-87 B.C.), a main road was built along the Heihe River Valley and across the Qinling Mountains, linking Sichuan with the city of Hangzhong. Thereafter, Houzhenzi became an important town on this ancient route.

*The halls of Doumu Temple are now in ruins, but its name is still used to refer to this park of the scenic area
(by Huang Jixian).*



The members of a surveying team have a meal on their way up Taibai Mountain.



Due to the mountain's inaccessibility, all of the temples here were built with local materials and the statues of gods and immortals in the temples were all made of clay.



Only Taoist priests who have peaceful minds and live in harmony with nature can survive on Taibai Mountain (by Hou Xi'an).

July 29

I was awoken this morning at dawn by a chorus of birds singing. As I pushed open the window, I was greeted with the beautiful sight of a forest covered with crystal raindrops. The mountain seemed so verdant and enchanting.

Today was our first day of climbing. The vertical height from Houzhenzi, which is 1,280 metres above sea level, to Liangshui (Cool Water) Well, which is 1,700 metres high, is only 420 metres, but to reach that point we had to cover a 15-kilometre stretch of road full of hairpin turns.

Mountain climbing is certainly not easy, however it gives me great pleasure and satisfaction. Along the way up we saw many beautiful

The top of Taibai Mountain is a wilderness of primeval forests. No human beings live in this area, but there is a Temple of the Mountain God, which looks like an ordinary farmer's thatched house (by Hou Xi'an).



This shrine was also built with local materials.

sights, such as waterfalls formed by streams that rushed rapidly down the rocks.

Trees on this mountain look rather ordinary, however a forest warden we met felt otherwise. "It looks ordinary," he said with pride, pointing to a tree nearby, "but in fact, this type of tree is found nowhere else in the entire world but here. It is called a Mountain Poplar."

Another rare plant found on Taibai is called Single-bladed Grass, which grows amongst loquat orchards at 3,000 metres above sea level. It hardly looks like anything special — a brownish blade with a red stem and a round leaf — but it is of great scientific value. The only specimen of this type of grass abroad is now housed in a botanic garden in Britain. It was found by an Italian missionary who had come up Taibai Mountain



The ridge extends for several dozen kilometres. On the northern side, all the springs flow into the Yellow River, and on the southern side, the streams flow into the Yangtze (by Qin Ling).

The ancient pines on Taibai Mountain have taken on unusual shapes after hundreds of years of torture by the gusty winds.





*Spring flowers do not blossom until July on Taibai, as it is so high and cold
(by Chen Xiaoping).*



*In China, all famous mountains have statues of gods or immortals. This is
a group of immortals made of mountain rocks and plastic cloth, located on
the shores of a small pond (by Hou Xi'an).*

Passing pilgrims added their own stones to already-existing rocks, creating these unusual formations.

Taoist priests and lay people pass through the Eight Trigrams Formation.

This small temple set amidst rocks is made of cast iron.



The vast "Sea of Rocks" on Paoma Ridge

during a summer holiday in the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) He found the plant unusual, so he dug it up and later took it home.

The two sections of the trail from Yaowang (Medicine King) Cave to Tiejia Tree, and from Wanquan Waterfall to Tiejia Ridge were the most tortuous and steep. When we sat down for a break, we found ourselves covered in sweat and shivering in the cold wind.

July 30

After a whole day of climbing, we finally arrived at Yuhuang (Jade Emperor) Pool at 5:00 this afternoon. Some 3,400 metres above sea level, it is the largest body of water on Taibai Mountain. We reached the pool by following a "River of Rocks" — a path covered in angular rocks. What was strange was that when we reached the top and looked back on the "river", we thought we could actually hear it roaring and gushing down the mountainside.

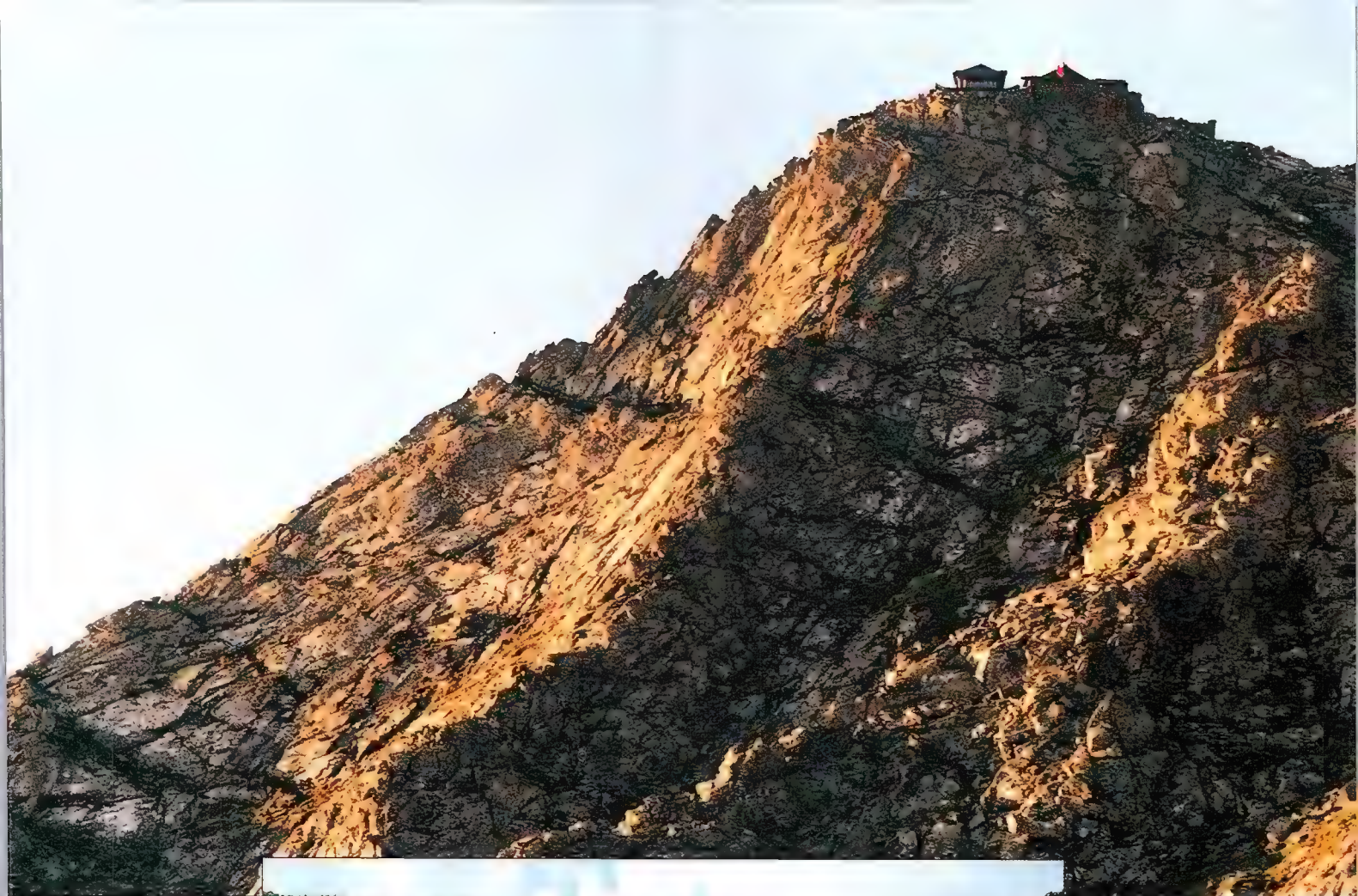
Standing on the mountaintop by Yuhuang Pool, I found that all the other peaks were lower than me except for Baxian (Fairy) Terrace, which towered behind me. In the distance, red mushroom-shaped clouds were rapidly splitting, rolling and finally merging together. At that moment, I caught sight of lightning flashing above the clouds, which was followed by rumbling thunder. Grey clouds gathered beneath the red ones, soon to drop rain on the scenery below.

July 31

Today we arrived at Baxian Terrace — at 3,767 metres the highest peak on Taibai Mountain — before sunrise. On the terrace, an ancient temple made of wood and rocks had almost entirely collapsed. Only the hall where God Taibai was worshipped still stood. Inside the hall, there was a statue of God Taibai as well as images of the King of Hell, the Medicine King, Protectors of the Dharma and others, all of which were draped with red or green ribbons. They were vividly sculpted and looked true to life. On the sacrificial table were fruit and cakes. Plumes of blue smoke from joss-sticks spiralled up and hovered around the images.

It was summer down at the foot of the mountain, but here on the mountaintop it was freezing. Any warmth that one produced from climbing was blown away by the chilly winds. I felt cold all over. It was so cold that before long, everyone's legs began to shake.

Along the trail from Yaowang Hall upwards, we passed five lakes called Foye (Buddha) Sea, Sanqing Pool, Yuhuang (Jade Emperor) Sea, the Third Taibai Sea and the Second Taibai Sea. Having crossed Baxian Terrace, we came to another lake, the First Taibai Sea, which had reflected in it white surging clouds. These "seas" were all pretty small; if they were on flat land, they would only be regarded as ponds. However, they were all clear and calm, so one could see straight to the



Baxian Terrace, located on the summit of Taibai Mountain, is covered with ragged rocks (by Hou Xi'an).



This "River of Rocks" was formed by glacial movements in ancient times.

bottom dozens of metres below. I walked over to the side of the pond to wash my hands, but as soon as my fingers touched the water it was as if they had had an electric shock. I recoiled immediately at the bitter cold. Gritting my teeth, I slowly put my hands into the water again. After ten seconds, all my fingers went numb. I withdrew my hands and trod on. Even after walking for another two kilometres, my hands and arms were still cold.

To the west of Baxian Terrace, I saw a stretch of land where there was a forest of rocks. The local guide said, "This is said to be the ruins of Jiang Ziya's Eight-Trigram Formation." Jiang Ziya was actually a fictional character based on Lü Shang, a prime minister who lived during the late Shang Dynasty (c. 16th-11th century B.C.). The boulders were not very

tall but their shapes were rather strange. What was more startling was that the piece of land with the eerie rocks stretched for several kilometres along the ridge of the mountain. What on earth could possibly have been able to erect these rocks on top of a mountain 3,000 metres high? Had they been moved up there by men? Impossible. In the first place, it was too great a project. Secondly, human beings would be physically unable to move such huge rocks. Were they simply a natural part of the mountain? Judging from their formation, it was highly unlikely that they were created by nature. One could only wonder.

Taibai Mountain's many mysteries and legends have attracted large numbers of scientists both from home and abroad over the years. Germans once conducted a large-scale research project here and univer-



Almost all the trees in this conifer forest are fir or black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*)
(by Li Tongbin).



These old trees are covered with thick moss.



These ancient pines are located on a ridge over 2,000 metres above sea level.

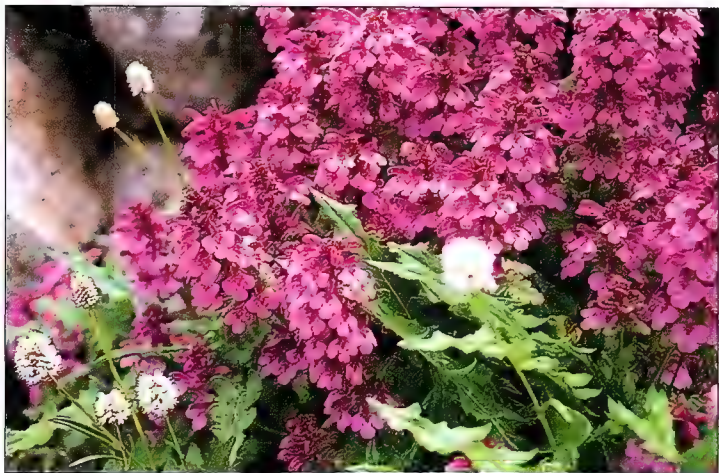


This is a rare species of plant called "Single-bladed Grass".



The crown of tree zone in the lower part of the mountain.

A view from the mountain



This species of wildflower is seldom seen anywhere but here.

sity undergraduates from Xi'an often come to the mountain to do studies. Li Siguang, a great Chinese geologist, once came here to do some research and later published an essay on mountain glaciers.

As we stood amongst the massive rock formation, the peaks of the Qinling Mountains looked as though they were floating in a sea of clouds, a fabulous sight. Shortly, rays of sun cascaded down onto Baxian Terrace. The area between the terrace and Paoma (Horse Racing) Ridge was virtually a shimmering pool of light, turning the verdant grass and the red, white, blue and yellow blossoms into a colourful brocade. The 20-kilometre-long Paoma Ridge is a long stretch of undulating land, and the scenery here was astounding. It was so large a place that, I reckoned, it was big enough to build dozens of airports.

Sun Simiao, the Medicine King, is greatly worshipped in this area, and memorial tablets and statues of Sun are everywhere. Sun lived during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) in the capital of Chang'an (present-day Xi'an), which was a city full of scholars and men of great talent. At that time, Taibai Mountain teemed with medicinal herbs, plants and trees. Sun Simiao came here to study the plants and trees and found many new herbal medicines, and for this reason became known as the Medicine King.

It turned grey in the afternoon and began to snow intermittently. From time to time, we caught sight of large groups of rocks set in the grass. The largest group was called the "Formation of Ten Thousand Fairies". Over time, pilgrims passing the rocks had added piles of stones in the shapes of posts, stools, bamboo shoots and so on. They also left

Wildflowers still blossom on this cold grassland, situated at 3,500 metres above sea level (by Hou Xi'an).



Precious glossy ganoderma, a fungus used in Chinese medicine.

pieces of red or yellow wool — sometimes even their clothes — on the top, which made the piles look like human beings and animals from a distance. Clouds floated amidst the creatures, and when a gust of wind swept past, they seemed to be moving in the dusky shadows.

August 1

Last night was the second time that we had to sleep outdoors. A piece of nylon cloth was our room, and the grass served as our bed. After breakfast, we set off from Laomiaozi, at 3,000 metres, and began our descent down the mountain. Along the way we passed Lingguan Terrace and a place called Daping, then arrived at Taibai Temple, which is 1,960 metres above sea level. The slope was very steep, dropping more than 1,000 metres during a three-hour walk.

From Daping to Taibai Temple we passed through a five-kilometre stretch of bamboo groves. On our way up the mountain, we had passed long similar stretches of azalea bushes, loquat forests and pine forests. As we entered the grove of slender bamboos, the tranquility and fresh air lifted our spirits. It is no surprise that the famous giant panda has been living here for several million years, and is one of the mountain's original inhabitants.

After Paoma Ridge, the five-kilometre-long pine forest from Shabaozi to the Temple of the General was the most spectacular sight we encountered. The pine forest was situated precisely on a ridge, and endured year-round northwest winds which made all the pine branches bend to the southeast.

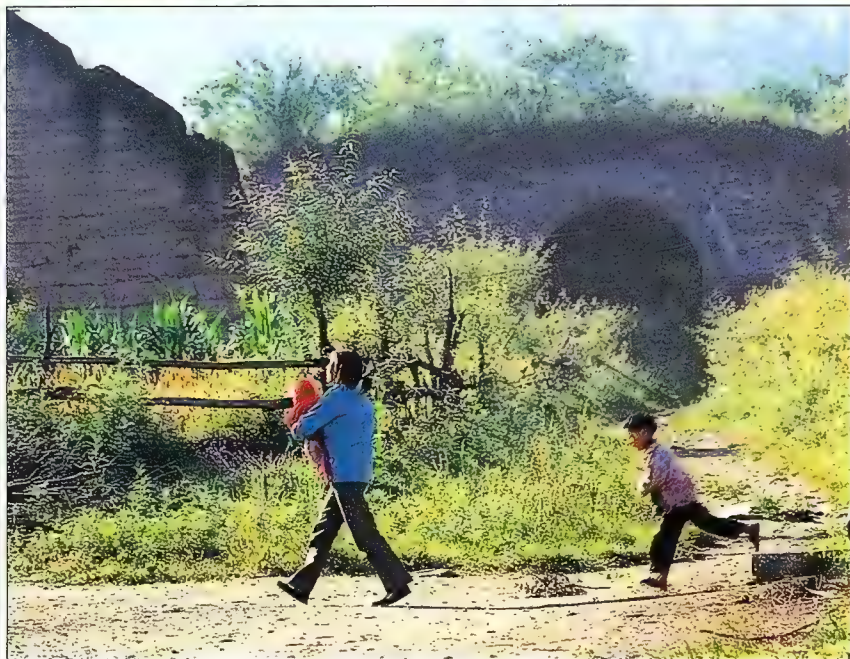
This stone statue is all that remains of an ancient temple (by Jiao Jingquan).



An ancient tablet made of cast iron still stands outside of Laoxiancheng.



Local people keep bees in these cliffside containers (by Jiao Jingquan).




One hundred years ago, Laoxiancheng was the seat of Foping County (by Jiao Jingquan).

In this primeval forest, even fallen ancient pine trees looked impressive. In fact, on Taibai Mountain the ancient pine is considered the king of all trees. Because of their great height and size, vines and mosses of various kinds grow all over them, and even when the trees are dead, these “parasitic” inhabitants continue to take root in the tree’s fertile body, trying to absorb nutrition in order to survive.

August 2

Once again, we were on the ancient path leading to Xi’an. As soon as we heard the barking of dogs and saw smoke rising up from farmers’ houses, we knew we were back in civilization. The winding dirt path cut the dense field of maize into two. Gradually the low walls of an ancient town called Laoxiancheng came into view. Under the ruined walls there were groups of colourfully dressed girls. A few young men were stand-

ing on a ladder pasting a red couplet on the town wall to welcome a surveying team.

I can still remember when, last summer, I first arrived at Laoxiancheng and the village head gave me a bowl of sweet red bean porridge, a wheat pancake and some very rare wild honey. It was cold that evening, and in the middle of the night he came in my room to turn on the electric blanket. The next day he accompanied me on a tour of the only street in the village. We visited the ruins of a Confucius Temple, the old county *yamen*, the prison and the Guan Yu Temple. Pointing to a mountain forest to the north of the village, he said: “At the beginning of this year, a group of about 300 golden monkeys came and stayed here for ten days.” He then added, “And in the winter of the previous year, a giant panda wandered into the village. Nobody touched it. The lovely creature just swaggered away after having eaten his fill of food.”  Translated by Wang Mingjie

Climbing Taibai Mountain

TEXT BY DAI SHUQING

The mountains and "sea of clouds" around Fangyang (Sheep Herding) Temple (by Hou Xi'an)

Taibai Mountain is located 100 kilometres from Xi'an in Shaanxi Province and extends into the three counties of Meixian, Taibai and Zhouzhi. With an elevation of 3,767 metres, it is the highest mountain in central China, higher than either of its more famous cousins — Huangshan or Taishan. Huashan Mountain, which is in the same mountain range, is 1,700 metres lower than Taibai. From the Hanzhong Basin, which is only 300 metres above sea level, up to Baxian Terrace, the summit of Taibai Mountain, there are a wide variety of topographical landforms.

Taibai is a natural border between north and south China, and thus the climate differs between the two sides, changing dramatically with the increase in elevation. From bottom to top, there are five climatic zones: a warm temperate zone, a temperate zone, a frigid-temperate zone, a sub-frigid zone and a frigid zone. It has various kinds of species of animals and plants, more than any other mountain in central China. Since ancient times, Taibai has been known for its perilous heights, cold climate and unusual rock formations. In 1965, the State opened a natural protection zone around Taibai Mountain.

Taibai is worthy of its reputation as one of China's most famous mountains, not only for its wonderful scenery but also for its important position in history. Since the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties, many men of letters and scholars, like Li Bai, Du Fu and Su Shi, came to visit this mountain and compose poems, which became widely loved and often quoted by the people.

There are paths on four sides of Taibai Mountain that lead to Baxian Terrace. Recently Meixian County has opened a Taibai Mountain

Forest Park along the upper reaches of the Tangyu River and to the north of Baxian Terrace.

If one climbs to the top of Taibai one will be rewarded with a scene of extraordinary natural beauty, however unlike some other mountains, Taibai is quite difficult to climb. If you do not know the terrain and treat it like any other mountain, it could be dangerous, even fatal. Therefore, specialists give warnings to tourists who want to ascend the mountain:


1. Choose the right season to go and return quickly. You should not ascend the mountain until the hottest season comes in July or August. Though the temperature on the Guanzhong Plain could reach 40°C at that time, it is often only 7°C to 8°C on the summit of Taibai. If the weather turns worse, it could drop to 0°C. Summer is therefore the only season that one can climb Taibai Mountain. The weather changes unpredictably on the mountain, so it is best to return quickly after your visit to the top.

2. Bring clothes for all four seasons. As it is so high and steep, Taibai goes through different climatic zones as one ascends, so one can experience all four seasons in just a day. Even though it is summer, you still need to bring padded clothes and a blanket.

3. It is advised not to climb in the rain and to be cautious of falling rocks. Taibai Mountain has abundant water resources and rainstorms often occur. Stones can be washed down the cliffs and steep slopes, therefore tourists must be very careful when it is raining.

4. Do not be frightened if you experience altitude sickness. Taibai is very high, and when you go above Doumu Temple and South Heavenly Gate, you may have a reaction to the altitude. It could become even more serious

when you reach Baxian Terrace. The general symptoms are loss of breath, heavy legs, headaches, dizziness, nausea and a quickened heart-beat. If it is a serious case, nosebleeds can occur and one can even lose consciousness. Of course, after a few days on the mountain, you will acclimatize, so if you have a reaction, do not be frightened. Walk slowly and rest frequently. If the reaction is very strong, it's best to go down the mountain.

5. In addition, you should bring enough food and drink along, the best kind being that which has a high caloric content and digests slowly. There is nowhere to buy food or drinks, since there are no people living on the mountain.  Translated by Wang Mingjie



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There are many clothes shops in Taishan, all trying hard to catch up with international fashion trends (by Chan Yat Nin).

Taishan — The Number One Hometown of Overseas Chinese



PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY PENG ZHEN GE

Tongji Road in the downtown area has retained this same look for almost half a century.





*The railway station in Taishan,
built more than 80 years ago,
has been converted into
a long-distance bus terminal.*

支 行 旅 业

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省东广



The No. 1 Middle School is the largest school in Taishan. The buildings in this school have all been built with funds donated by overseas Chinese at different periods of time, resulting in each building being different from the others. This old-fashioned structure is now a student dormitory (by Chan Yat Nin).

Taishan in Guangdong Province is regarded as the number one hometown of overseas Chinese. Indeed, the number of people of Taishan origin living in Hong Kong, Macau and other places is as high as one million, larger than the population of Taishan itself. Today, people who can speak the Taishan dialect are found in over 82 countries and regions.

Though the size of Taishan City is twice as large as it was 40 years ago, the old downtown area still remains the same. Buildings along the streets constructed by returned overseas Chinese are still standing solid despite their age and worn-out appearance. The ground floors of these buildings are mostly used as shops. The new part of Taishan, however, is full of modern, tall buildings, a sharp contrast to the downtown area.

The railway station was once the most magnificent structure in Taishan. The rails were removed during the War of Resistance Against Japan and many new structures have been erected there, making the station building appear much smaller. The station has now been converted into a long-distance bus terminal which is crowded with passengers all day long.

A Combination of East and West

In a small park near the station, there is a bronze statue of a man named Chen Yixi, who did a great deal for the construction of the Xinning Railway. Having worked for 40 years in the United States, Chen returned to his hometown of Taishan in 1906 when he was 60 and engaged in railway construction there. He advocated the importance of railways everywhere he went, established funds for the construction of the railway and became the managing director and chief engineer of the Xinning Railway Corporation. Finally he succeeded in building the earliest non State-owned railway line – the Xinning Railway Line.

In the 1920s and 1930s, many overseas Chinese returned home to Taishan with their hard-earned money, which they used to buy land and build houses. They also brought back with them plans for the construction of Western-style villas and bought good cement from Southeast Asian countries.



When going out, Taishan people like to use parasols to shade themselves from the sun (by Chan Yat Nin).

In Fuyue Village, the nine villas built by returned overseas Chinese are a combination of foreign and Chinese architectural styles.



In the early period of this century, bandits ran roughshod in Taishan. To protect themselves, returned overseas Chinese built their villas like fortresses.



In the villas of Fuyue Village, ancestral tablets are worshipped in the main halls. The large photos beside them are the portraits of the ancestors who built the villas.



This moon cake in the form of a smiling Buddha was sold at a stall in Taishan County during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

These villas, usually three or four storeys high, are actually a mixture of Chinese and Western architecture with verandas at the front and balconies on the top floor. The lintels sport flowers carved in bold relief, while the partially tiled roofs have pavilion-style pointed tops. The villas are all surrounded by walls, because in those days banditry was rife and returned overseas Chinese were the targets. To protect themselves, they put up tall turrets. There are altogether about 5,000 such turrets in Taishan. Some villas have watch towers attached to them and others even have embrasures from where one could fire a gun, making them look like ancient but small European castles.

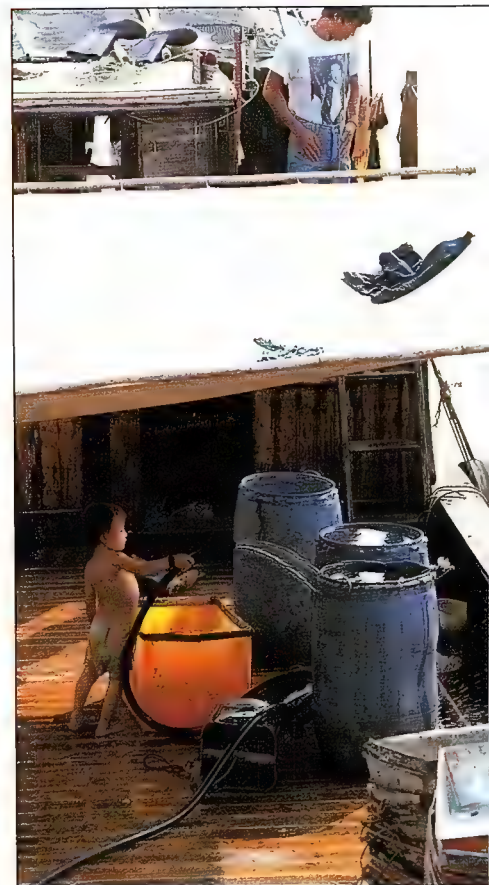
We paid a visit to one of these villas in a village named Fuyue. It looked rather aged, however the interior was well preserved. On the ground floor there was a hall which contained some ancestral tablets and a statue of the Earth God. Photos of relatives abroad also hung on the walls, the largest one being of the first owner of the villa. Most of the rooms on the first floor were unoccupied because, I was told, they were kept for overseas relatives who might come home for a visit. The village had some 300 residents and more than 1,000 relatives living abroad.

Buildings Reflect Taishan's Unique History

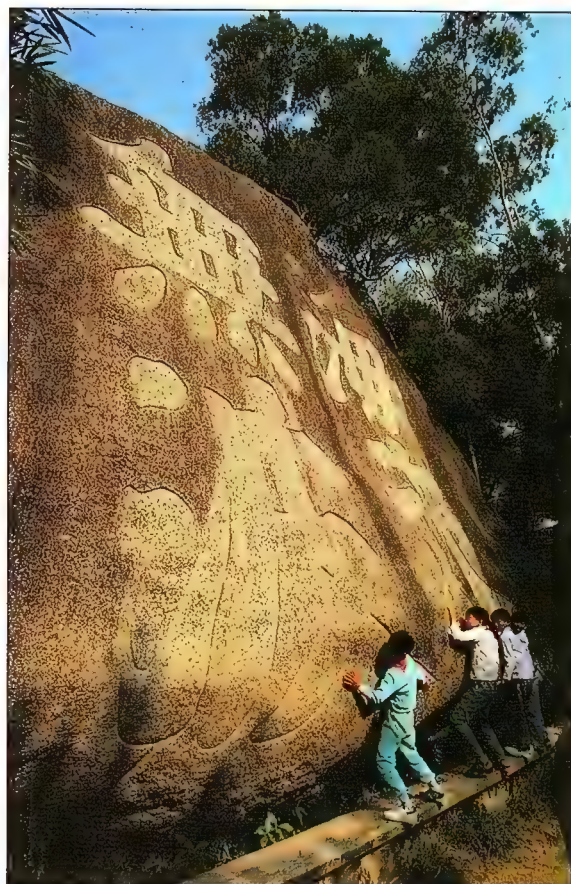
Chinese believe in the idea that "the leaves fall on the roots", which means that one should return to and die in one's hometown. Naturally, therefore, many former Taishan residents and their descendants come back to Taishan to try to find their roots or the records of their ancestors. On arrival, they go to the local ancestral temples to pay homage to their forefathers, to continue recording their family histories and so on. Many of them raise funds for building new schools, bridges and roads, thus it is no wonder that the number of schools in Taishan tops the whole country.

The No. 1 Middle School is the largest school in Taishan. Having been constructed over a period of 90 years, its buildings are of varying architectural styles. The donor's name for each building is carved on the lintel of the gate and in some cases, porcelain portraits of the donors are inlaid in the wall.

Young men in Guanghai Port, one of Taishan's open ports, like wearing T-shirts with pictures of pop stars printed on them (by Chan Yat Nin).



This little girl is giving her mother a hand selling salted fish (by Chan Yat Nin).



Guanghai Town has a park with a huge granite rock carved with four characters meaning "A Sea Forever Without Waves" in memory of a victory over Japanese aggression some 500 years ago (by Chan Yat Nin).



The amusement park built with funds donated by a Hong Kong singer and his family in Dongning Village

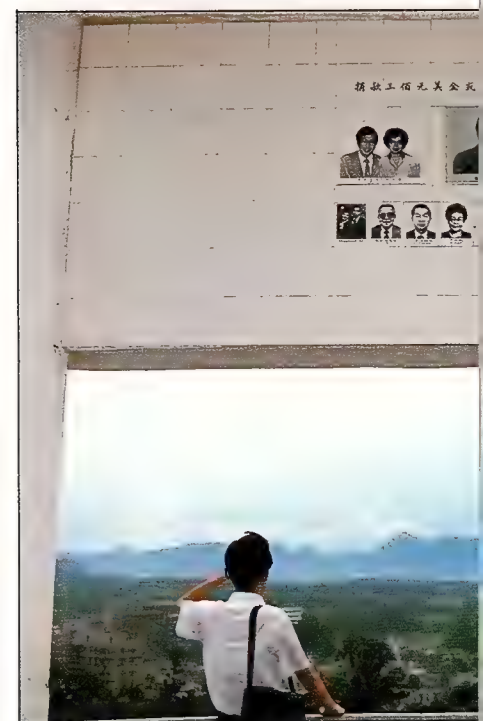
Another interesting building in Taishan is the city's new museum. On exhibit in this museum are records and photos that tell the story of how Taishan people went abroad to make a living and the achievements they made. A photo of Mr. Huang Zongzhan, a well-known Hollywood camera-man from Taishan, is also on display.

Up in the mountains at the Shihuashan Tourist Area there is a newly built structure with a yellow glaze-tiled roof. This is the Monument to American Pilots of the Flying Tigers Squadron, on the top of which is their emblem. Why should these American pilots be so honoured in a place they had never even been to? The inscription on the stone tablet answers the question: "During the War of Resistance Against Japan, many members of the Flying Tigers Squadron, which performed great military deeds in China, India and Burma, were from Taishan."

About 40 kilometres from Taicheng town is Guanghai Port, where over 100,000 people have boarded ships and crossed the sea. Today, Guanghai Port is open to foreign ships and a new quay for passenger ships has been built. High-speed hovercrafts ferry people between Guanghai and Hong Kong every day. In the middle of Guanghai there is a wide street flanked with villas and stores, leading straight to a fishing dock. Here, day after day, people mill around buying and selling popular items like salted fish and shark's fins.

On the hill to the west of Guanghai Town there is a well-known park which contains a huge granite rock eight metres high and nine metres wide, engraved with four magnificent characters meaning "A Sea Forever Without Waves". Each character is three metres high and over two metres wide, a rare sight in Guangdong Province. They were carved 500 years ago during the Ming Dynasty in memory of a victory over Japanese aggressors. Going up along the coast of Guanghai for 30 minutes, you come to Shanzui Dock. If you take a boat there and sail for a little over an hour, you will get to Shangchuan Island. Shadi Port, one of the four largest fishing ports in Guangdong, is also located here.

Translated by Wang Mingjie

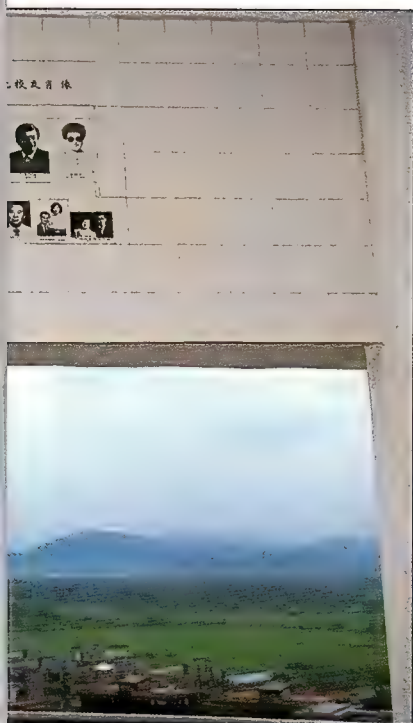


Porcelain portraits of the donors are inlaid in the wall at the No. 1 Middle School.

A new-style house recently built by an overseas Chinese

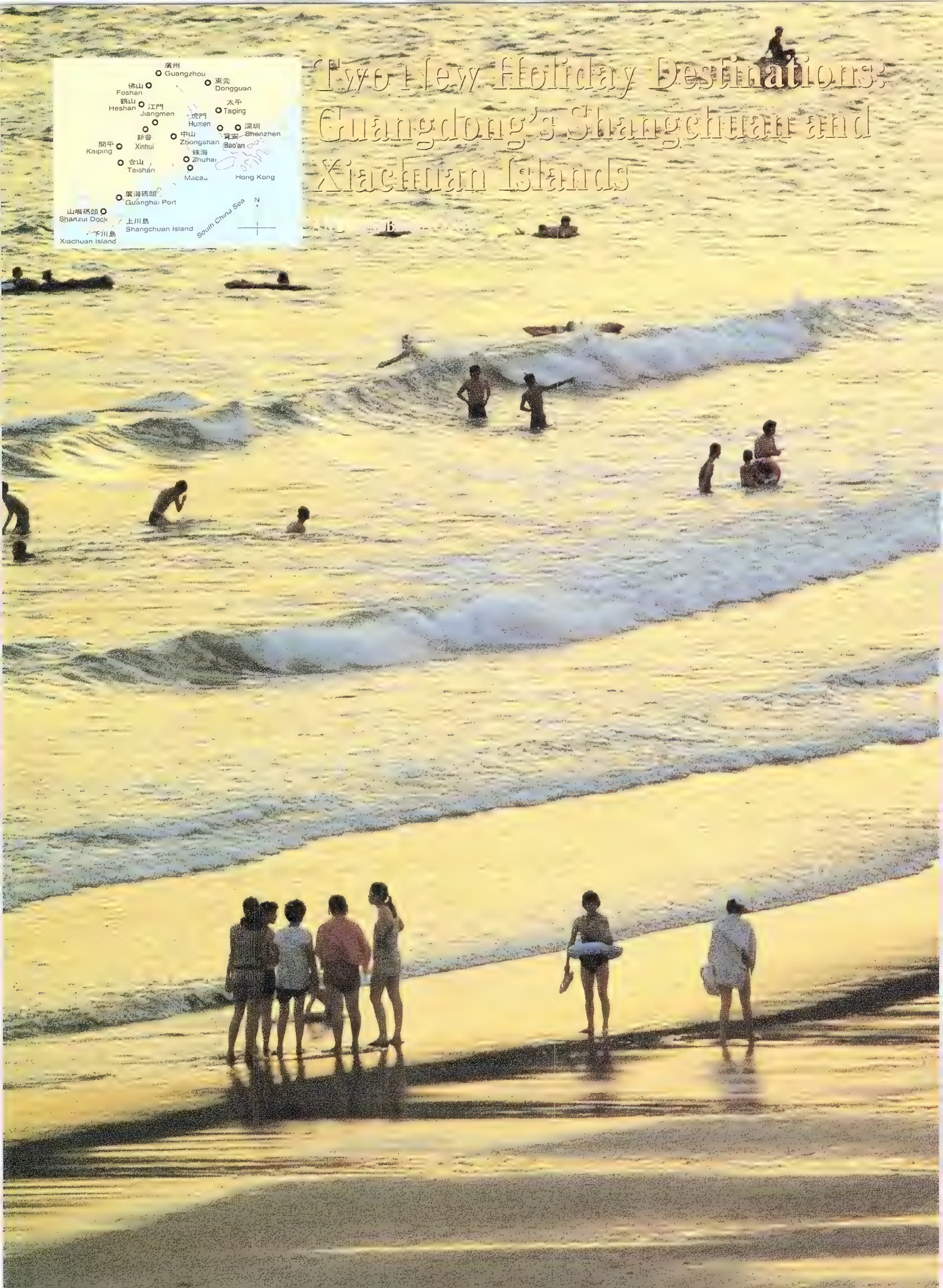


The Monument to American Pilots of the Flying Tigers Squadron at the Shihuashan Tourist Area at Taicheng



This newly-built Children's Palace in Taishan was constructed with funds donated by Chinese people at home and living abroad (by Chan Yat Nin).

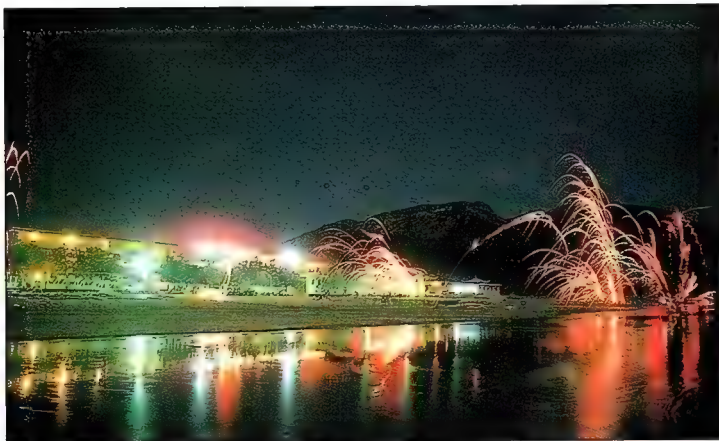
Two New Holiday Destinations: Guangdong's Shangchuan and Xiachuan Islands





Children are fascinated by these simple wooden boats.
(by Liang Jirong)

At Wangfuzhou Beach, people play in the cool clean water (by Shi Bao Xin)



In the evening Hong Kong tourists set off fireworks, a pleasure they cannot enjoy at home (by Peng Zhen Ge).



On a mountain slope near Feisha Beach sits a golden, laughing Maitreya Buddha statue (by Shi Bao Xiu).

If you happen to live in Hong Kong, you may have heard of two neighbouring islands in the coastal area of Taishan County in Guangdong Province. The bigger one is called Shangchuan (Upper Chuan) Island and the smaller one Xiachuan (Lower Chuan) Island. In recent years both have been turned into holiday resorts. People seeking to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life will find these islands' sandy beaches and lush vegetation a welcome change.

In spring and summer tens of thousands of people from Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macau flock to these islands for sightseeing

and fun. Especially during summer vacations, the islands almost overflow with visitors. Among the tourists are many families with primary and middle school students, who run and shout on the once serene beaches. Restaurants and hotels of all descriptions are filled to the brim with tourists.

During the busy tourist seasons, passenger liners regularly travel from Hong Kong and Macau to Guanghai Port in Taishan. From Guanghai Port tourists can take a mini-bus to Shanzui Dock, where passenger steamers will take them to Shangchuan Island. By ship it

Most of the inhabitants on Shangchuan Island are fishermen, as the island waters abound in aquatic products. During the fishing season, simply throwing a net in at random ensures a good catch (by Chan Yat Nin).



takes about one hour while by steam boat (which carries about a dozen people), it takes less than 20 minutes.

The Many Attractions of Shangchuan Island

When you get to Sanzhou Port on Shangchuan Island, you can take any bus, big or small, to get to the beach. The buses will all pass through streets lined with seafood stalls and then climb over a ridge.

There are many barber shops on Shangchuan Island. After a swim in the sea, people often like to have hairdressers clean the salt water from their hair (by Shi Bao Xiu).



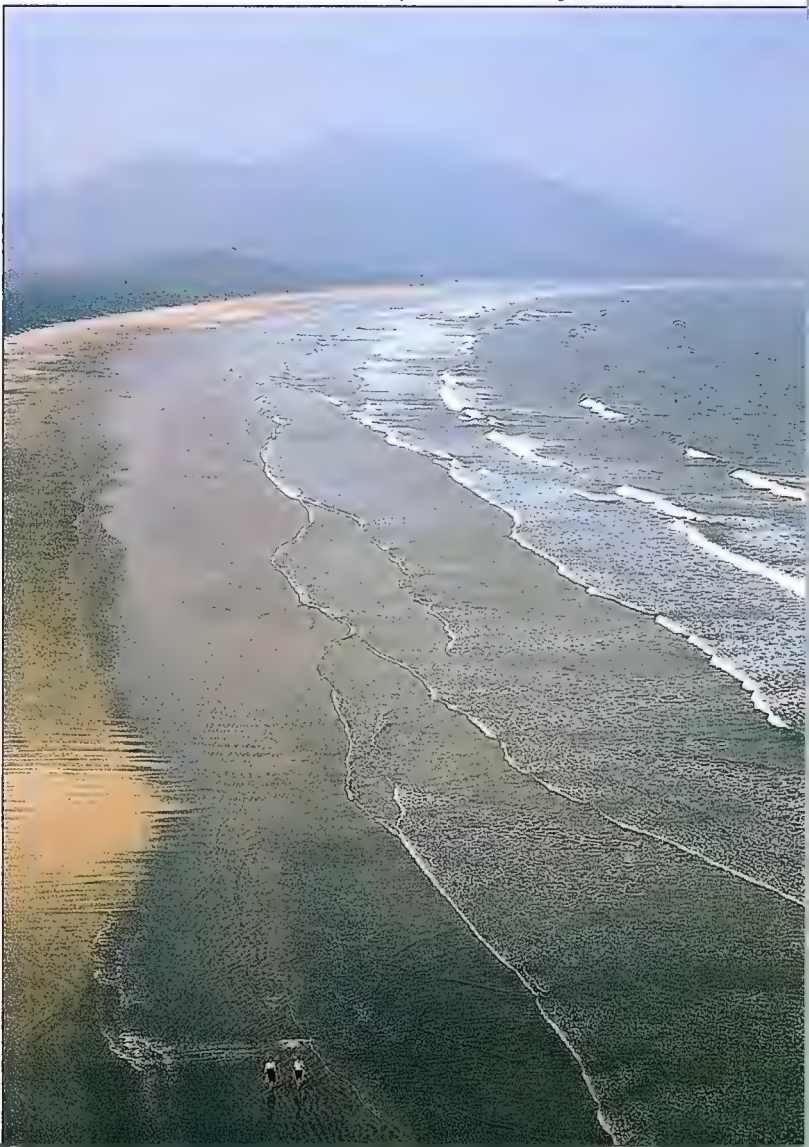
Descending from the hill you can see the glistening Feisha (Flying Sand) Beach in the distance.

The water here is pure and crystal clear with no pollution, and the sand fine and white. The two-kilometre long beach stretches gently down to the sea. A Taishan native living in Hawaii once said that Feisha could rival Hawaii's well-known Waikiki Beach.



Parachuting is another amusement available on Shangchuan Island (by Peng Zhen Ge).

The broad, gently-sloping Feisha Beach and the pure water make it an ideal place to swim (by Chan Yat Nin).





The chapel in the graveyard of Francisco Javier, a French Protestant dean (by Chan Yat Nin)

Feisha Beach has an amusement centre where tourists can try their luck after a dip in the sea (by Chan Yat Nin).



Behind the sandy beach there is a thick coconut forest in which are nestled restaurants, hotels and guesthouses made of granite or wood, which give one a feeling of returning to nature. On the beach on the east side of the hotel district there is a market that sells only salted fish. Plastic bags of salted fish dangle from shelves, their prices much cheaper than in Macau. On leaving the island, Hong Kong tourists almost always bring back several bags of tasty salted fish.



Salted fish are a popular island snack (by Chan Yat Nin).

Many Buddhist followers head straight for the Maitreya Temple situated on the side of a mountain. The temple has a unique design and was built with donations from overseas Chinese from Taishan County. A huge statue of a big-bellied Maitreya painted in gold sits cross-legged on a flat rock. Its open, smiling mouth is even bigger than the wooden tubs used by local fishermen for doing laundry. One of its drooping sleeves forms an open door big enough for three to five persons to enter and exit at the same time. After going through

the "door", you find yourself inside the Buddha's belly, which is actually a long corridor. Buddhist pilgrims burn incense and kowtow before several altars along the wall. At the end of the corridor is the hall in which a gilded Maitreya is enshrined.

Shangchuan Island also boasts the remains of buildings constructed by foreigners who once lived here. When the passenger steamer approaches Sanzhou Port, you can see from the left side of the ship a

This stone tablet was erected by Portugese merchants when they landed on Shangchuan Island in 1916 to claim it as Portugese territory (by Chan Yat Nin).



foreign-style pinnaced white structure on the shore. It is a chapel located in the graveyard of Francisco Javier (1506-1552), a French Protestant dean who came to China before the Italian missionary Matteo Ricci. He was less fortunate than Ricci, however, because before he had time to see China he died on Shangchuan Island.

In 1916 Portugese merchants attempted to open trading ports along China's coast. The first place they arrived at was Shangchuan Island, one of the biggest islands in the South China Sea. As soon as they landed, they erected a monolith inscribed with the insignia of the king of Portugal. By doing this, they believed that the island had been put under the jurisdiction of the Portugese king; they even gave the port where they first landed the Portugese name "Tamao".

Smaller and More Peaceful Xiachuan Island

Looking to the west, you can clearly see another smaller island covered with green grass and trees. This is Xiachuan Island. To reach Xiachuan Island you have to go back to Shanzui Port on the mainland and take a steamer. The steamer makes only three or four trips to the island a day, as due to the longer distance it takes about two hours one way. Though smaller in area, the island has more inhabitants because there is more arable land. Xiachuan Island is known as "pineapple country" because of the many pineapples grown there, a fact that gives the island another association with Hawaii. During the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), a Xiachuan man called Ou Zunrang emigrated to Hawaii. He was very successful as a pineapple grower

Boats at Shangchuan Island's Sanzhou Port (by Chan Yat Nin)



and in 1929 he came back to his native land, bringing high-quality strains of pineapple with him and introducing this new crop to local farmers.

Xiachuan Island has a charming stone dock which extends 20 metres into the sea. It is the sole dock on the entire island. Even before tourists get off the boat, motor cars, pedicabs, tractors and buses from various hotels crowd the dock area and honk their horns to attract customers. If you want to go sightseeing, hiring a motorcycle is a good choice as the price is affordable and it can go wherever you like.

If you want to go to the beach on the other side of the island, you have to cross a plain, go over a ridge and through several villages. The villages are nestled among green paddy fields, and the houses are charming with their black tiled roofs and white-washed walls. Besides cultivating three rice crops a year, the villagers also grow pineapple and coconut trees. In their leisure time, men play chess or cards in village clubs and women tend to chores and care for the children. They are not bothered by urban problems such as environmental or noise pollution, crowded housing or traffic jams.

The beach on the far side of the island is called Wangfuzhou. The water there is so clear that one can see fish swimming over a dozen metres below the surface. Even when the tide ebbs and flows, or the wind whips up waves which lap too much the shores, the water never turns turbid. This is because the sand on the beach contains no mud whatsoever. In my opinion, Wangfuzhou Beach is much nicer than Feisha Beach on Shangchuan Island.

In summer the sky is an azure colour, turning the sea a darkish blue. Hundreds of young people in rainbow-coloured swimsuits swim merrily amidst the waves. Most of the holiday-makers I saw were young lovers. On a rock on the left side of Wangfuzhou Beach is a statue of a semi-naked goddess in a reclining posture. It is five to six metres high and ivory white in colour. The goddess looks calm and kind, and her eyes gaze off into the distance. Through the thin clothes

her full and round shoulders, arms, chest and slender waist reveal their flowing curves.

When the evening wind blows and dusk falls on the beach, young lovers jump over the protruding rocks and climb up to sit on the legs,

The body of this statue has become a favourite rendezvous place for young lovers (by Yang Yankang).



Young people often build bonfires on the beach at night (by Shi Bao Xiu).



knees or in the embrace of the goddess. It seems only fitting that the goddess' giant body should accommodate these lovers, who have travelled long distances to come here to enjoy the simple beauty of nature.

Translated by Anne Yan

The beautiful pastoral scenery on Xiachuan Island resembles the "Land of Peach Blossoms" — a fictitious land of peace away from the turmoil of the world, as depicted by a famous Chinese poet (by Shi Bao Xiu).



Various kinds of vehicles fill the dock at Xiachuan Island, ready to receive customers (by Yang Yankang).



This style of playing volleyball is perhaps unique to Xiachuan Island (by Shi Bao Xiu).

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Luoguhe Village, situated near the source of the Heilongjiang River, enjoys pleasant weather in summer (by Peng Zhen Ge).

A Journey Along the Heilongjiang River

ARTICLE BY CHENG WEIDONG & WANG DUODUO

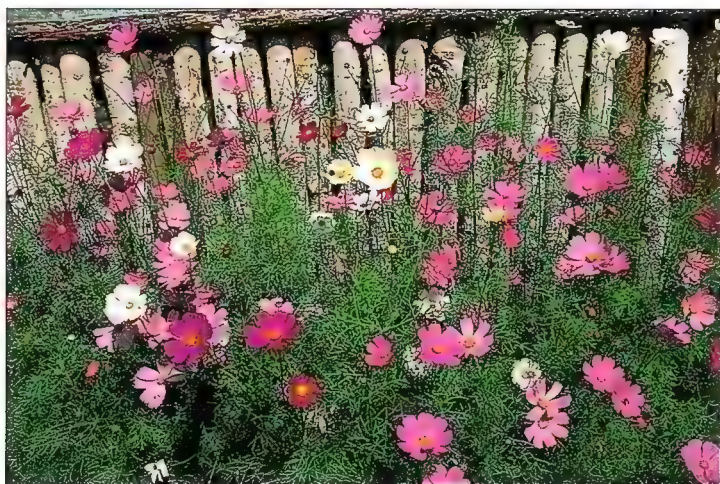




The upper reaches of the Heilongjiang pass through quiet forests (by Mr. Wenchang).



The Ergun, a Sino-Russian border river, merges with the Shilka from Russia to become the Heilongjiang River (by Peng Zhen Ge).



Wild flowers grow around dwellings in the forest areas of the Greater Hinggan Mountain (by Peng Zhen Ge).

The Heilongjiang River, which forms China's most northeastern border with Russia, is the third largest river in the country. Though it cannot compare with China's second largest river, the Yellow River, in length, it certainly surpasses it in volume.

The Heilongjiang flows through the sparsely populated Greater and Lesser Hinggan Mountains and a vast region commonly called China's Northeast Wilderness. For this reason, an aura of mystery has long surrounded the river. For a long period of time, China and Russia kept their borders tightly closed to each other. Now that the Sino-Russian border is becoming increasingly more open and border trade more brisk than ever, the river is finally unveiling itself to the public.

For half of the year, the Heilongjiang River is covered in snow and ice. When summer comes, the current rises and the usually quiet forests, marshlands and plains along the river become green and full of life.

Where the River Begins

Situated in the northwest corner of Heilongjiang Province is a village called Luoguhe. Eight kilometres west of the village two rivers merge, the one coming from Russia in the north being the Shilka and the one from Inner Mongolia in the south the Ergun. Together, they form the Heilongjiang River.

Where these two rivers meet there are two navigation markers — one with a number "1", which indicates the end of the Ergun River, and the other with "893", which indicates the beginning of the Heilongjiang River. The 893-kilometre stretch between here and Heihe Town is considered the upper reaches of the Heilongjiang. This section of the river is wide and the water clear, with thick forests growing along the quiet shores.

Luoguhe Village stands on the bank of the river opposite a small Russian village called Borkrov. The 40 or so households in Luoguhe Village are mostly people from Shandong who moved here several decades ago. Large wooden houses line the street that leads to the highway, and in front of the houses are vegetable and flower gardens, surrounded by fences made of white birch.

During the summer one sees only old people, children and women in the village, as the able-bodied men are either grazing their horses on the



The large number of giant navigation markers on both banks of the Heilongjiang also serve as border demarcation posts (by Peng Zhen Ge).



The sign on this pavilion in Mohe reads "North Pole Market", as the town is known as North Pole Village (by Peng Zhen Ge).



Many Russian descendants live in Chinese villages on the upper reaches of the Heilongjiang (by Peng Zhen Ge).

grasslands of Inner Mongolia, working in the forests or mining gold at Laojingou, a gold mine not far from here. On average, a labourer there can mine one gram of gold per day and sell it for more than 40 yuan.

Mohe, China's "North Pole Village"

Mohe Village is 60 kilometres downstream from Luoguhe. Located on the main navigational channel of the Heilongjiang River at a latitude of 53°30' north, it marks the northernmost tip of Chinese territory. Though just one of the many border villages in China, Mohe is known for its reputation as being China's "North Pole Village". Now the seat of the government for all of Mohe County, the town is some 100 kilometres away from the source of the Heilongjiang. Over time, the village has

acquired the physical look of a proper town, with two-storey red brick buildings lining the streets, government offices, hotels, banks and department stores.

Nevertheless, the village has maintained its rural tranquility. In the morning, horse-driven carts take people to the fields, but during the day the streets are deserted. In the "North Pole Market" in the centre of town, vendors sell meat and vegetables. Whenever a shuttle bus or tourist bus arrives in town, the entire population knows it within minutes and residents start discussing the citizenship of those inside.

The meteorological station for Mohe County stands just outside the village. Although small, it is among the many stations all across China that take part in sharing weather information with other countries. Being in the northernmost tip of China, it has the coldest winter in the country, with the lowest average temperature -43°C. On the evening of February 13, 1969, Mohe experienced the coldest moment in Chinese history when the temperature dropped to -52.3°C.

Many people in China know that this "North Pole Village" is a good place to see both the Northern Lights and what is called "white night". Some people, however, make the mistake of travelling thousands of miles to come to see the Northern Lights around the Summer Solstice, which is actually the best time to see "white night".

The Northern Lights, which are caused by radiation from the sun hitting the atmosphere over the North Pole, can only be seen after sunset and before sunrise. In January and February, the night at Mohe stretches to 20 hours long, making this the most opportune time to see the
(Continued on page 47)

The Hanjiayuanzi Gold Mine yields about 500 kilogrammes of gold a year (by Cheng Weidong).



Opposite the Chinese town of Xing'an is Kalinda, a small town in an afforested area in Russia (by Peng Zhen Ge).





The Hanjiayuanzi Gold Mine near Shiliuzhan in the Greater Hinggan Mountains has a history of about a hundred years. It now operates using equipment recently introduced from Holland (by Cheng Weidong).

The First Rafting Expedition Along the Sino-Russian Border

From June 23 to August 6, 1993, China's First Cultural and Sports Exploration Team on the Heilongjiang River completed an unprecedented tour.

The exploration team consisted of nine people: team leader Zhang Ziyang (the producer of Central China TV), deputy team leader and writer Zhang Qianyi, a guide, an interpreter, a liaison officer and reporters. They began their trip at Luoguhe Village on two separate rubber dinghies. After having endured all manner of hardships and spending days in the wilderness, they finally came ashore at Fuyuan Delta, completing a trip of more than 1,800 kilometres.

Along the way, they took pictures of the scenery of the Greater and Lesser Hinggan Mountains and of the life style and customs of people living on the Sanjiang Plain, and also visited Russian cities such as Blagovescensk, Nizneleninskoje and Khabarovsk.

Cooking in the wild during their exploration mission (by Gao Shan)



Members of China's First Cultural and Sports Exploration Team on the Heilongjiang River sign their names on a national flag before embarking on their trip (by Su Changde).



The pristine upper reaches of the Heilongjiang River (by Su Changde)



The smoke coming from this bank in Huma County is created by coal burning underground (by Qiu Wenchao).



Plants and flowers now grow in the forests that were destroyed in the great fire of 1987 (by Peng Zhen Ge).



The forests of the Greater Hinggan Mountains are home to many wild animals such as bears (by Qiu Wenchao).

The Oroqen are believers of Shamanism. The totem on this animal skin is a symbol of good luck (by Gao Shan).



The Oroqen are very skilled at making things with birch bark, such as the water buckets this girl is carrying (by Cheng Weidong).

We were guests in this makeshift bark tent which was built by Oroqen hunters, where we were treated to wild game and strong liquor (by Sun Zhongxiu).



The Oroqen — Forest Hunters on Horseback

In the Greater and Lesser Hinggan Mountains live an ethnic group called the Oroqen. With a total population of only some 2,000 people, they have their own spoken language but use Han Chinese as their written language, since they do not have their own script. Scattered in the counties of Huma, Xunke and Jiayin along the Heilongjiang River, these people live mostly by hunting. When the hunting season begins, they go into the mountains on horseback in small groups of three to five people, taking along their hunting dogs. In the forests, they live in makeshift tents built with birch tree bark, eat wild game and wear clothes made of animal skins. In the evening, they eat, drink and dance around cozy bonfires.

The canoes that the Oroqen use when they go out fishing are also made with birch bark. It is so light that it can be easily carried by a single person (by Cheng Weidong).



Northern Lights. The lights appear from one to four times a year and last from half an hour to two hours each time. When they initially show up, they look like shooting comets, then they gradually scatter into a belt of orange-red colour.

"White night" appears in mid-June when the nights are at their shortest. The sun does not set until after 9:00 in the evening. Then a long, long dusk follows, in the wake of which is immediately a long, long dawn. The sun eagerly rises again at around 3 a.m. Even in the deep of night, one can still clearly see the facial features of those walking in the street some 30 metres away.

Demarcation Posts Along the Border

The upper section of the Heilongjiang is more than 200 metres wide. On the cliffs and slopes along this section are numerous pairs of tall navigation markers. Those on the Russian side are painted white, while those on the Chinese side are red. If the river's course takes a right turn, ships will sail towards the red markers. Likewise, when the river turns left, the ships sail towards the white markers. Where the river is straight, the navigation markers are more than five kilometres apart from each other; when it zigzags, there are several markers within one kilometre. That the navigation markers are so large and numerous owes much to the fact that they also serve as demarcation posts for the Sino-Russian border. The main channel of the Heilongjiang River is recognized as being the natural border between the two countries.

Living in the Chinese villages southwest of the river bank are many Russian Chinese who have blonde hair, large noses and deep-set eyes but speak Chinese with a Shandong accent. They are the descendants of Russian nobles and landlords who came across the border to escape the Russian Revolution early this century, and the immigrant gold miners from Shandong who took them in. They call themselves Russian Shandong'ers.

These days, it is mostly patrol boats, navigation boats and timber barges that one sees cruising the Heilongjiang River. Passenger boats also travel between Heihe and Mohe. Since the Greater Hinggan Mountains that stand along the shores are home to forests rather than people, the sparse population does not have much of a demand for a shipping service. As a result, passenger ships only make a trip once every two weeks. When the water level is low, service stops entirely. The river is very calm, and experienced sailors have no difficulties navigating. They know that where the water is dark, it is deep, where it is light, there is a shoal, and where the water appears white when seen from far away, there are rocks underneath, thus requiring special caution.

A River of Gold

The Heilongjiang River region was home to several tribal peoples in ancient China, including the Xianbei, Nüzhen, Mongolian and Manchu ethnic groups, all of whom for a certain period grew very strong and occupied China's Central Plains. The Manchus, after taking over the



From a telescope set up on the riverside at Heihe City, tourists can have a close look at Blagovescensk, the Russian city on the opposite bank (by Peng Zhen Ge).



This market on an island near Heihe is a free-trade market for Russians and Chinese (by Peng Zhen Ge).

Central Plains and establishing the Qing Dynasty, proclaimed their ancestral home region closed to land reclamation. Over the following 200 years, the area became densely afforested.

It was not until the end of the last century, when gold was discovered along the Heilongjiang River, that the Qing court began to have postal stations and roads built in the Greater Hinggan Mountains. Eventually they opened up a road for transporting gold, which was dotted with a postal station every 30 kilometres. In all, there were 32 stations between Heihe and the Laojingou Gold Mine. The gold mine was very prosperous: In 1895 alone, the Qing court obtained 50,000 taels of gold. It is said that one year Empress Dowager Cixi was presented with 10,000 taels of gold as tribute for buying cosmetics. Delighted, she renamed Laojingou (Old Gold Gully) Yanzhigou (Cosmetics Gully).

Along this former "gold" road, a highway has been built which now serves as the main thoroughfare for developing the Greater Hinggan Mountain region. The postal stations of long ago have become villages and towns, but still retain their former names. Shibazhan (Eighteenth Station), for example, has grown into a fairly large city with wide roads, tall buildings and a railway station. In the yard at the station, logs from various kinds of pine trees are piled high, waiting to be shipped away.



Tourists often come to visit the historical ruins in the ancient town of Aihui (by Cheng Weidong).

Another newly-built railway goes from here to the Hanjiayuanzi Gold Mine near Shiliuzhan (Sixteenth Station).

The highway going through the Greater Hinggan Mountains is lined with pine and birch trees. The pines are thick and tall and almost entirely prevent the sun from shining through. The birch trees stand straight and prim next to each other in a white wall. In late summer wild flowers are in full bloom and fruit is ripe on the vine.

Travelling here at night is like going through a wild animal reserve. In the lights cast by our car, we saw roe deer running across the highway and escaping into the forests or marshlands. At times, when it had just turned dark, an owl would fly right in front of the car, causing our unprepared driver to slam hard on the brakes. Other times, hares would suddenly run into the car lights cast on the highway and then run towards our car with all their might. They would only go into the forests if the driver was merciful and turned off the lights. We were told by a sailor working on a navigation ship that he had seen roe deer and brown bears swimming across the river the summer before.

On a map, the Ergun River is only a short tributary that feeds into the Heilongjiang River, thus I was surprised by its width and turbulent current. Along the banks there is nothing but thick bushes, forests and

desolate marshlands. The staggering contrast of the roar of the river and the otherwise deadly quiet along its banks was somehow disturbing.

The most terrifying sight that I saw here, however, was the forests that were burned down during the great fire of 1987. Though at many places what the fire left behind had been shipped away to be used as timber and new saplings had been planted, there were still large patches of burned tree trunks standing menacingly above the velvet grass and blooming flowers. Today, fire prevention measures in the afforested area are much more tightly enforced. In autumn, when the weather is dry, people are forbidden to go into the area with matches or cigarette lighters. Smoking outdoors is certainly not allowed.

Heihe — the Largest Riverside City

The city of Heihe on the upper reaches of the Heilongjiang River is the largest town on the Chinese side of the border. Directly across the river is Blagovescensk, the capital of the Amur Region and the second largest city in Russia's far east. Seven or eight years ago, people in the two cities started reaching out to each other to do trade, and today both tourism and trade are developing at a rapid pace.

Every day an estimated 1,000 people from each side cross the border, carrying bulky bags with clothes and items of daily use to sell. In Heihe, the presence of Russian merchants has become a great attraction, and has

in turn lured Chinese vendors from inland cities and towns to come do business with their Russian counterparts. Some of them take the opportunity to obtain a visa and go on a day trip to Russia across the river. Business people in more of a hurry simply get on a cruise ship and enjoy the Russian scenery aboard ship.

The river here is nearly a thousand metres wide. There is talk of building the first bridge on the Heilongjiang at this point, jointly funded by China and Russia. Thirty kilometres downstream is the ancient town of Aihui. This border town enjoyed its greatest prosperity at the end of the last century, when it had a population of some 40,000 residents, many of whom were engaged in trade. In the summer of 1900, Qing government troops and the Boxers battled against invading Russian soldiers, who subsequently burned down the entire town. Several historical sites such as Kuixing Tower have been restored for the benefit of visitors today.

The fields along the road between Heihe and Aihui produce a variety of extremely sweet watermelon. In the mid-1980s when border trade was finally allowed, the first transaction made between the two countries involved Chinese watermelons from Heihe, which were traded for Russian cement and steel. These days at the end of every summer in early August, tourists coming here will often stop by the roadside to enjoy the juicy local watermelons.

Where Four Rivers Converge

The over 1,000-kilometre section of river between Heihe and Fuyuan is the middle reaches of the Heilongjiang. For the first 700 kilometres, the river flows through a valley that cuts across the counties of Sunwu, Xunke, Jiayin and Luobei.

The Greater and Lesser Hinggan Mountains that the Heilongjiang flows through are actually made up mostly of rather gentle hills. The highest peak is just a little over 1,000 metres and most of the hills along the river are about 200-300 metres high. The cliffs that one occasionally



The gate of the former customs house in Aihui (by Peng Zhen Ge)

Ever since it opened to Russian business people and tourists, the small city of Heihe has become crowded with visitors (by Peng Zhen Ge).

sees along the river bank are usually just several dozen metres high. The most outstanding feature of the scenery here is its primitiveness, its vastness and the natural and ecological uniqueness of the place.

When it arrives at the Lesser Hinggan Mountains, the river no longer twists and turns as frequently as it does within the boundary of the Greater Hinggan Mountains, but the current here is much swifter. Five kilometres downstream from Heihe, the Zeya River empties into the Heilongjiang from the Russian side, almost doubling the water volume and increasing the river's width to 1,600 metres. Standing on a ship in the Heilongjiang River, I could see the huge Amur Iron Bridge spanning the Zeya River.

From Aihui, the river flows calmly for 118 kilometres to reach Qike Town, the seat of Xunke County. It then goes quietly another 250 kilometres to Chaoyang Town in Jiayin County. This section of the river is also very wide with numerous sandbars and islets. At the border of Xunke and Jiayin counties, another great Russian river — the Bureja — merges with the Heilongjiang. A five-kilometre-long island called Bulahan is right at the mouth of the Bureja, and is inhabited by 20 or so Chinese families.

At the foot of Guanyin (Goddess of Mercy) Hill five kilometres downstream from Chaoyang, the river enters a 120-kilometre-long valley in the Lesser Hinggan Mountains. Here it suddenly shrinks to half its former width to just 700 metres. At certain points, it can narrow down to merely 300 metres wide. Closed in by the sheer cliffs on both sides, the turbulent river roars ahead. It is said that in the past when ships went by the hill, they would hoist strips of red cloth as a sign that they were praying for protection from the Goddess of Mercy. Nowadays, a red flag is used only as an SOS sign.

After sneaking through the valley in the Lesser Hinggan Mountains, the river makes a 90 degree turn at the foot of a peak called Tuoluo Mountain, near the county town of Luobei. From here the river enters the alluvial plain called the Sanjiang (Three-River) Plain, which is watered by the Heilongjiang, Songhua and Wusuli rivers. On this piece of rather flat land only 50 metres above sea level water easily accumulates, creating large patches of marshland. Now, after years of toil by State farm workers, vast patches of farmland have replaced the former grasslands and marshlands.

At Tongjiang City over 100 kilometres downstream from Luobei, the yellowish Songhua River merges with the dark green waters of the Heilongjiang, leaving a long trail of light yellow rippling water. Along the 160-kilometre waterway from Tongjiang to Fuyuan, the Heilongjiang River widens to about 2,000 metres. From Fuyuan downstream to where the Heilongjiang merges with the Wusuli, streams branch off in every direction. Silt, which over time had accumulated in the river, eventually gave rise to a delta here which covers about 3,500 hectares. This is Fuyuan Delta, commonly called Heixiazi Island.

The 1,000-kilometre-long middle section of the Heilongjiang River between Heihe and Fuyuan is ideal for navigation, as it has joined forces with the region's major navigable rivers: the Zeya, Bureja, Songhua and Wusuli. Since the opening of the five trading ports along the river — Xunke, Jiayin, Luobei, Tongjiang and Fuyuan — there has been a rapid increase in the number of ships cruising the Heilongjiang.

The Wusuli is another river which acts as a natural boundary between China and Russia. On the northern bank opposite Heixiazi Island is Khabarovsk, the largest city in Russia's far east. The lower reaches of the Heilongjiang — from this city to where it enters the Sea of Okhotsk — flows entirely on Russian territory.

Situated on the northeastern tip of the Fuyuan Delta is a small town called Wusu. Apart from the border guards, the only inhabitants in the

As border trade is now conducted elsewhere, this old customs house at Tongjiang Port has become an historical site (by Su Changde).



When the weather is sunny, villagers wash their clothes in the Heilongjiang River (by Peng Zhen Ge).





At Luobei, the Heilongjiang rushes out of the valley of the Lesser Hinggan Mountains to enter the Sanjiang Plain, which consists of farmland and marshland (by Cheng Weidong).



Autumn is salmon harvesting season at the Fuyuan Delta, which produces large quantities of salmon caviar (by Cheng Weidong).

Tasty Fish from the Heilongjiang River

According to fish specialists, the colder the water is, the tastier the fish. Thus it is no wonder that fish produced in the north taste better and sell at a higher price than those from the south. In the spring when the frozen Heilongjiang River begins to melt, the first carps hauled in sell at 70 yuan per kilogram, ten times the price of the same kind of fish in inland areas. Of the fish from the Heilongjiang River, those caught in the upper reaches are more expensive than those in the middle or lower reaches.

Of the many species of fish in the Heilongjiang River, the most famous include the Mandarin, bream and *hucho*. A kind of large carnivorous fish of the salmon family which lives in cold waters, the *hucho* is regarded by the Japanese as a "magic fish". The salmon is another specialty from the Heilongjiang. Its pinkish-red meat, which has very few bones, can be eaten raw or smoked. The crystal-red and highly nutritious salmon roe is sold as caviar at very high prices.

Huso sturgeon, which can measure an incredible five metres long and weigh up to 500 kilogrammes each, is the "king of fish" in the Heilongjiang River. In bygone days, huso sturgeon

was always used as tribute for the imperial court. The meat is delicious and both the fins and snout are used to make expensive Chinese delicacies. Dark green in colour, sturgeon caviar is one of the world's rarest foods. At a caviar fair held in Paris in 1986, caviar made from Heilongjiang's sturgeon roe was recognized by connoisseurs as the "most delicious" of all caviar.



Weighing up to 500 kilos each, the huso sturgeon is the "king of fish" of the Heilongjiang River. Sturgeon is often used in China to make delicacies for banquets (by Liu Xiangyang).



Fuyuan is the easternmost town in China (by Cheng Weidong).



The Heilongjiang and Wusuli merge outside Wusuli Town; where they meet also marks the easternmost point of Chinese territory (by Cheng Weidong).



Wusuli Town is inhabited by only one family of three people (by Su Changde).

town consist of one family of three. They live partly on fishing and partly by managing a workshop for processing salmon. The month around the Mid-Autumn Festival (which usually falls in late September) is salmon harvesting season, and that is when fishermen from the vicinity gather here, bringing much liveliness and activity to the small town.

To watch the sunrise from Wusu's Wuhua Hill on a summer morning is a special attraction. The Heilongjiang and Wusuli converge east of the town at a place at a latitude of $135^{\circ}5'20''$ east, the easternmost tip of Chinese territory and therefore the first place in China that sees the sunrise. In summer, the sun begins to rise above the river as early as 3:00 in the morning, a unique and extraordinary sight for visitors to this far-off land.

Translated by Huang Youyi

The Hezhen: A People Dependant on Fish

With a total population of around 1,400, the Hezhen are the smallest ethnic group in China. Inhabiting the areas along the Heilongjiang River in Tongjiang and Fuyuan counties, they have been living on their fishing skills for generations.

In the past, they not only ate fish but also wore clothes made from fish skin, slept under fish-skin quilts and at night, used fish oil to light their lamps. Today, cotton clothes have replaced fish skin and electric lights have taken over for fish oil lamps. Grain is their staple food, though they still love to eat raw fish. As the Heilongjiang is unpolluted, fish caught in its waters are excellent when eaten raw.

These days, it is difficult to find any Hezhen villagers who are capable of making fish-skin clothes. A 70-year-old woman named Li Sulian, who lives in Jiejinkou Town in Tongjiang County, is one of the few exceptions. To make a fish skin suit, she needs 500 kilogrammes of skin and more than 20 days, during which time the skin must go through eight different processes.



*Far left: The Hezhen from Jiejinkou Town sell their catch by the river every morning (by Su Changde).
Top: Li Sulian, an elderly lady of the Hezhen nationality, is one of the few people who still know how to make fish-skin clothes (by Cheng Weidong).
Left: Exquisitely made fish-skin clothes and shoes (by Liu Xiangyang)*

Tips on Summer Travel Along the Heilongjiang River

ARTICLE BY PENG ZHEN GE

The area along the banks of the Heilongjiang River has the lowest temperatures in all of China, with only 100 or so frost-free days out of every year. Even in July, the average temperature ranges from just 18-22°C, however the summers are long and the cool, fresh, moist air makes it an ideal place to escape the summer heat. At present the only cities along the Heilongjiang that have travel agencies and top hotels are Heihe and Jiamusi, but the province does have one of the best railway systems in the country, and there are railway stations in Mohe, Heihe and Jiamusi.

Along the river, passenger ships make regular — if not always on schedule — runs, and the towns along the river all have regular bus service. The Heilongjiang seems to be especially appealing to backpackers during the summer holidays. One often sees them on trains and buses, fishing along the river, staying at inns in quaint little towns, practicing their few words of Russian and purchasing Russian souvenirs.

Mohe China's northernmost village of Mohe can be reached by first taking a train from Harbin to Mohe county town (also known as Xilinji), with a change at Qiqihar, in itself a lovely place to visit. The Nenjiang River runs outside of Qiqihar and in the northern suburbs one can visit the Zhalong Nature Reserve, home of the rare red-crowned crane.

From Qiqihar to Xilinji it is over 900 kilometres, a distance which takes a day and a night by train to cover. Along this route the train passes through the Songneng Plain and the forests of the Greater Hinggan Mountains. From Xilinji to Mohe Village it is another 30 kilometres by bus, which run once a day and take about two hours one-way.

Getting from Mohe Village to the town of Luoguhe is a bit more difficult, as there is no public transportation. One can hitch a ride with a local person or try to get on a river boat. If one is lucky and arrives when the river is high, one may be able to catch a ride on a boat plying the waters between Luoguhe and Heihe.

Heihe To reach Heihe from Harbin is quite easy, as there are both planes and trains going there every day. In Heihe, there are tourist buses everywhere that can take you to the ancient city of Aihui, and there are also many boats along the river that depart whenever they have enough customers. If you want to get to the Greater Hinggan Mountains, you can take a bus travelling north along the river to Huma, a clean and quiet town with plenty of restaurants and basic hotel facilities.

From Heihe one can also take boats heading downstream along the Heilongjiang, but there is only one boat every one or two days. The boat will pass through the towns of Qike, Chaoyang, Fengxiang, Tongjiang and Fuyuan, but one must change boats at several of the stops and wait for the next one to come along. The China Travel Service (CTS) office in Heihe is located at 40 Wangsu Main Street and can arrange group tours along the river between Luoguhe and Heihe. Their phone number is 0456-222643.

Jiamusi Jiamusi is a middle-sized city that has under its jurisdiction the towns of Luobei, Tongjiang and Fuyuan. Situated on the Sanjiang Plain, one can see many fields and waterways, the latter of which provide a convenient way to travel around the area. The CTS office in Jiamusi is located in the middle section of Hongqi Road and can be reached by phone at 31251.

Train Schedules
Harbin — Jiamusi

| 277 O. | 275 O. | 139 O. | Train Station | No. | 140 O. | 276 O. | 278 O. |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| From Jinzhou | From Dalian | From Beijing South | | | To Beijing South | To Dalian | To Jinzhou |
| 06:55 | 10:50 | 22:58 | Harbin | | 18:18 | 20:05 | 01:29 |
| 15:10 | 19:20 | 07:13 | Jiamusi | | 09:30 | 11:25 | 17:00 |

N.B. — For a tour to Fuyuan or Tongjiang, passengers can also alight at Jiamusi.

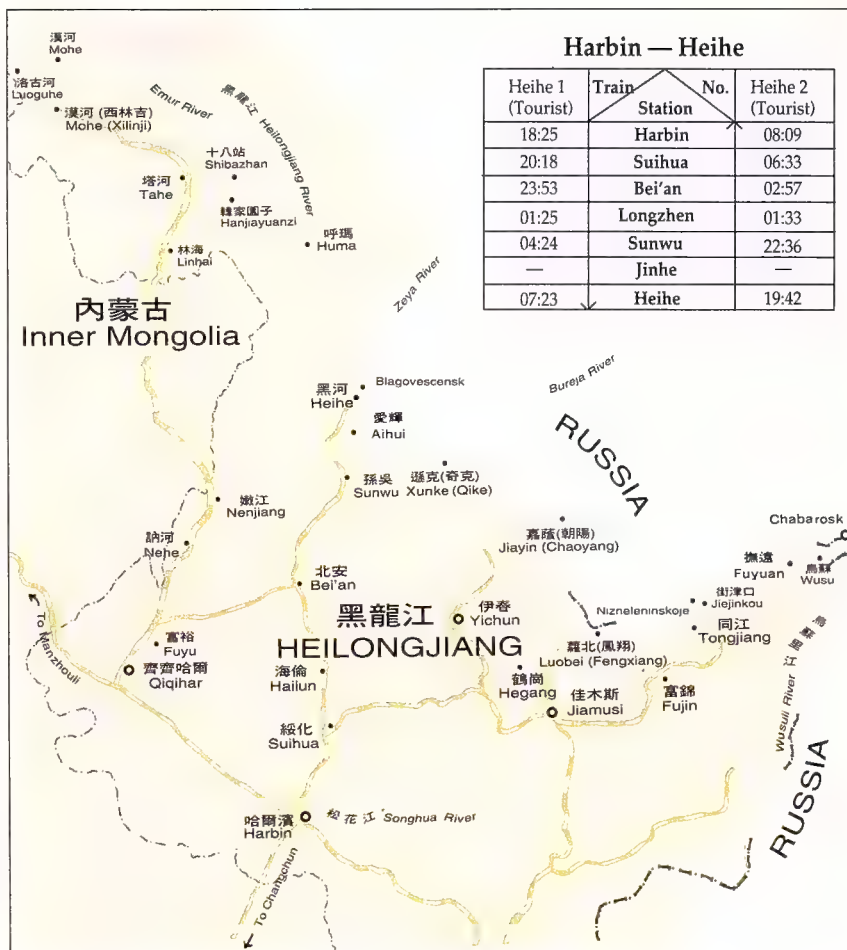
Train Schedules
Harbin — Qiqihar — Mohe (Xilinji)

| 507 O. | 315/313 O. | 39 Exp. | Train Station | No. | 40 Exp. | 314/316 O. | 548 O. |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| | | From Beijing | | | To Beijing | | |
| | | 16:47 | Harbin | | 12:20 | 14:50 | |
| 12:02 | 22:38 | 19:20 | Qiqihar | | 07:50 | 08:50 | 13:44 |
| 23:46 | | | Jagdaqi | | | | 05:10 |
| 06:08 | | | Tahe | | | | 22:40 |
| 13:12 | | | Mohe (Xilinji) | | | | 15:22 |
| 13:40 | | | Gulian | | | | 14:46 |

Exp. — Express O. — Ordinary passenger train

Harbin — Heihe

| Heihe 1 (Tourist) | Train Station | No. | Heihe 2 (Tourist) |
|----------------------|------------------|-----|----------------------|
| 18:25 | Harbin | | 08:09 |
| 20:18 | Suihua | | 06:33 |
| 23:53 | Bei'an | | 02:57 |
| 01:25 | Longzhen | | 01:33 |
| 04:24 | Sunwu | | 22:36 |
| — | Jinhe | | — |
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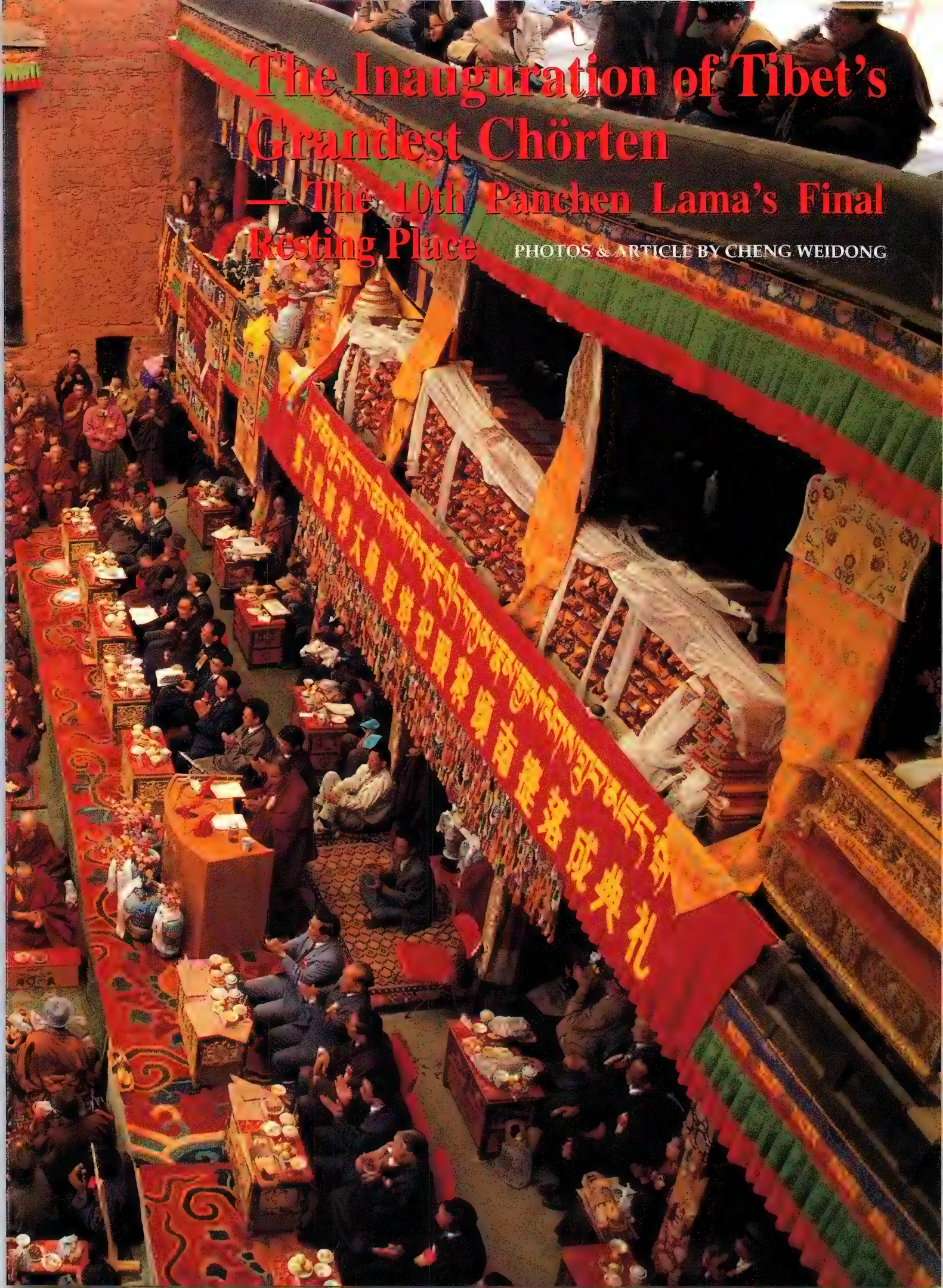


The ceremony to inaugurate the late Panchen Lama's memorial stupa in Lhasa

The Inauguration of Tibet's Grandest Chörten

— The 10th Panchen Lama's Final
Resting Place

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHENG WEIDONG





During a three-day prayer session, the lamas asked for peace for both the holy remains of the Panchen Lama and the chörten itself.

In January of 1989 I accompanied the 10th Panchen Lama on a tour of Tibet, where he presided over a ceremony to unveil the chörten for the holy remains of the Fifth to Ninth Panchen Lamas. On the 28th of that month, he suffered a heart attack and died in Xigazê, the second largest city in Tibet. More than four years later, I visited Xigazê again, this time to pay homage to his holy remains and attend the ceremony to inaugurate the chörten and memorial hall built in his memory.

By the time the first glimmer of dawn appeared on the horizon on August 30, 1993, the streets of Xigazê were already packed with people, both religious and lay. In hushed silence they waited. Four years and seven months after Erdeni Qoigyî Gyaincain, the 10th Panchen Lama, passed away, his holy remains were to be carried in great pomp and pageantry to their permanent resting place, the newly-built memorial hall in Tashilhunpo Monastery.

The Ceremony Begins

The auspicious date of August the 30th chosen for the inauguration ceremony was decided upon after careful divination according to the rituals of Tibetan Buddhism. In the small hours of that day, trumpets were sounded at Tashilhunpo Monastery, the place where Panchen Lamas customarily served as abbot. Strapping lamas climbed up the tall mountain behind the monastery. In the darkness they burned mulberry tree branches and hung out sutra streamers and flags, while veteran lamas set up prayer flags, changed the curtains on the monastery

windows and embellished the compound with colourful decorations. By 8:00 in the morning, the monastery was mobbed with solemn-looking religious followers who, holding *hata* (ceremonial silk scarves) in their hands, joined the thousand or so lamas there to bid farewell to the holy remains of the 10th Panchen Lama.

The ceremony was held strictly according to Tibetan Buddhist tradition. Amidst the tooting of trumpets and *suona* horns, eight lamas bearing the Panchen Lama's remains on their shoulders proceeded

slowly out of the monastery's prayer hall. The procession was preceded by delegations of Tibetans living in Qinghai, Gansu and Sichuan provinces and the late Panchen Lama's mother. Each member of the procession carried a metre-long *boi*, or Tibetan incense, in his hand.

The Panchen Lama's body sat cross-legged inside a sedan chair that was covered with a specially-made yellow brocade. The entire body — gilded and wearing the wristwatch and rosary and holding the religious bell the lama used during his lifetime — looked smaller after having undergone a facelift and the dehydration and antiseptic processes. Most aston-

ishing was the fact that a new crop of short hair had miraculously grown on the corpse's head.

The special preservation treatment the body underwent was also conducted strictly in accordance with the traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. According to Jigme Wangchuk, who took part in the treatment,



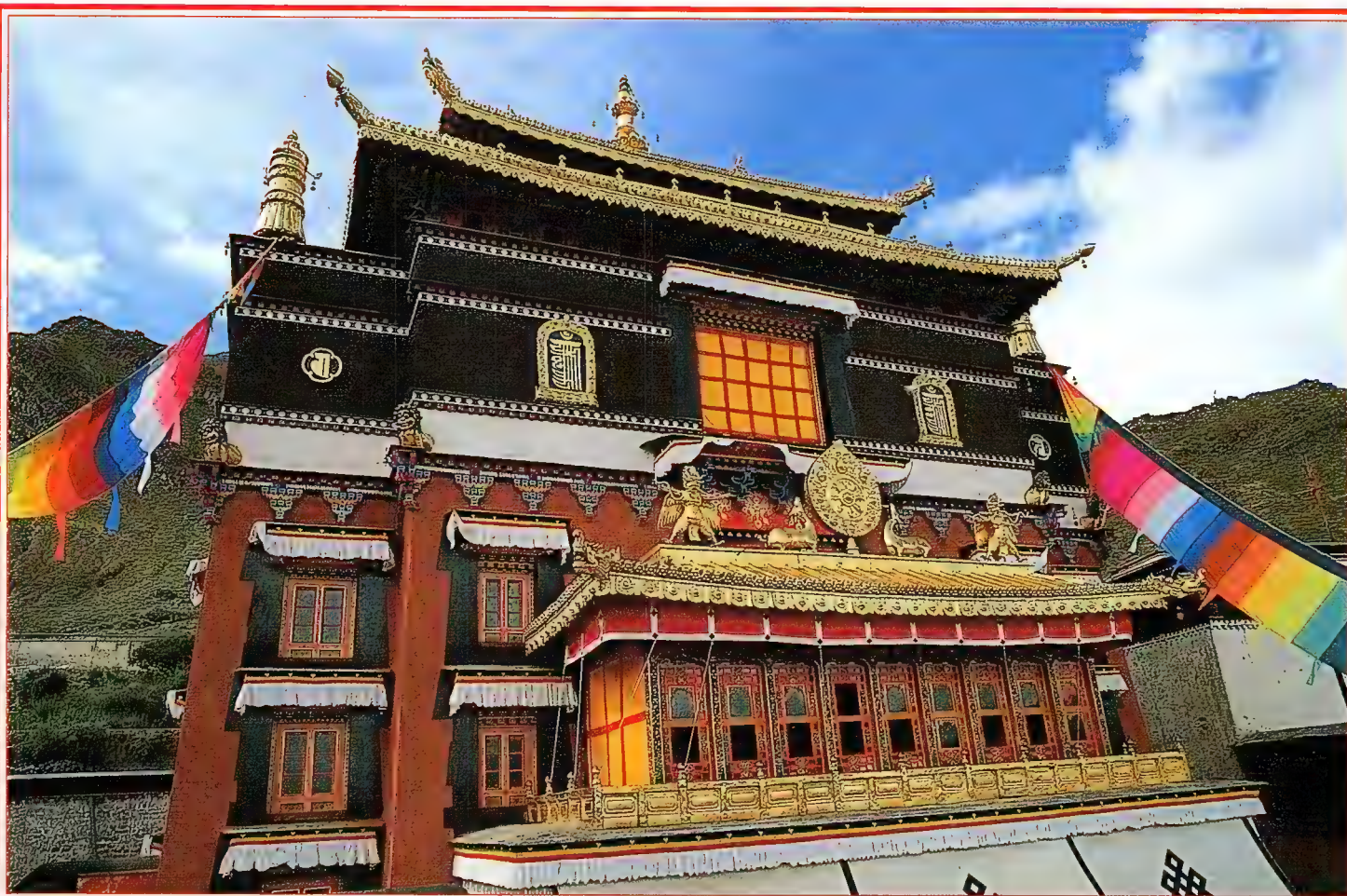
The entombment of the holy body into the chörten



The gilded chörten which contains the holy body of the late Panchen Lama



Living Buddha Qogyi, a Tantric master from Qinghai Province, presides over the ceremony.



The memorial hall, inside of which is the chörten which contains the remains of the 10th Panchen Lama

the remains were bathed in a saline brew of *Crocus sativus*, sandalwood and other precious ingredients and then wrapped tightly in brocade. Changed at four-month intervals, the brocade served to suck out all the moisture from the remains without causing the slightest damage to the skin, a process used for long-term preservation.

A Grand Procession Lays the Body to Rest

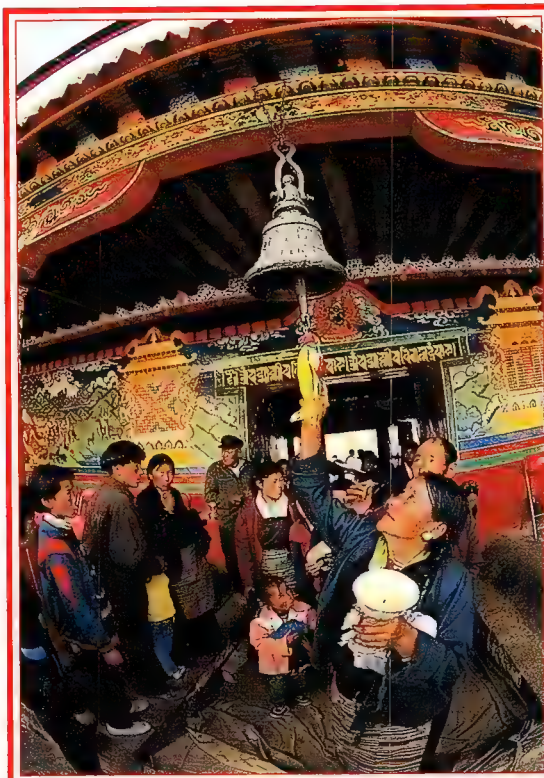
The ceremony of ushering the holy remains into the newly built chörten was presided over by Living Buddha Qazha Qamba Chilie, who is also chairman of the Tashilhunpo Monastery's administrative committee. The vanguard formation was composed of eight lamas holding the "eight treasures" — religious objects which the 10th Panchen Lama used during his lifetime. Then came two lamas wearing yellow crowns and playing suona horns. They walked directly in front of the sedan chair bearing the late Panchen Lama's holy body, which was shielded under a yellow canopy held aloft by two other lamas.

The entire procession stopped in front of the chörten. The eight treasures were placed into the chörten along with the holy remains. All of the objects that the 60 lamas in the procession carried were also put in.

The flagstone path leading to the newly-built memorial hall which housed the chörten was painted with colourful patterns symbolizing good luck. Several hundred monks from Tashilhunpo Monastery stood along either side of the path. Wearing yellow crowns and holding religious bells, conches, gongs, cymbals, prayer flags, fresh flowers and hats in their hands, they began to recite a litany of prayers as they watched the remains of their late abbot being carried into the chörten. All the while a band of lamas played trumpets and suona horns.

Walking immediately after the holy remains were the monastery's para-police; but instead of wielding their trade-mark steel batons, they waved a cluster of burning Tibetan incense in their hands. The eight lamas who bore the sedan chair on their shoulders were the late Panchen Lama's personal attendants. As the procession passed by, the crowd of well-wishers folded their hands to their chests in prayer as they paid their last respects to the holy remains. Some carried hats, religious flags and fresh flowers in their hands. A few old women cried softly, but the entire scene had a quiet and solemn air.

The procession made its first stop in front of the statue of Sakyamuni Buddha housed in the monastery's Cogchen Hall.



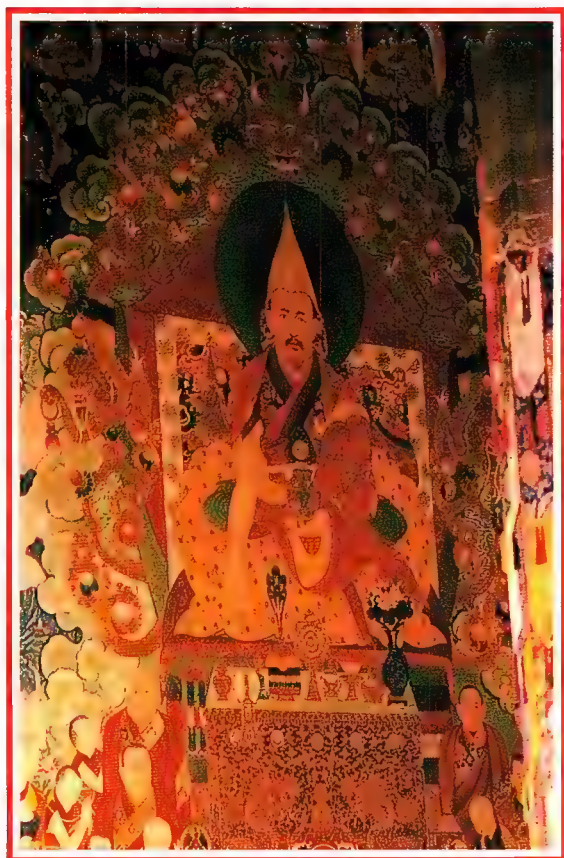
Religious faithful show their respect before entering the memorial hall.



Pilgrims, with flowers and hats in hand, await their last chance to look at the 10th Panchen Lama's remains.



A partial view of the gilded chörten



Inside the memorial hall is a mural depicting Qoigyi Nyima, the Ninth Panchen Lama.



A decoration on the exterior of the hall



Lamas make butter offerings to the Panchen Lama.

After walking three times around the throne where the Panchen Lama had given religious lectures during his lifetime, the procession headed for the stupa by way of the seminary. It took more than two hours to cover a short distance of 300 metres. The music of the trumpets and conch shells reached a crescendo that rose above the ocean of prayers which were coming from the spectators. People started jostling each other for a last look at the late Panchen Lama. The late lama's younger brother had been waiting there for some time. Stricken with grief, he could barely stand up without the support of others around him. He draped a silk hata on the sedan chair and, in tears, bowed long and deep to the remains of his elder brother.

Before the holy body was consigned to its resting place, distinguished guests specially invited for the occasion presented their last hats. The presiding lamas of Tashilhunpo Monastery and other lamas performed an elaborate religious ritual in front of the body of the Panchen Lama. When the sedan chair entered the memorial hall, all the lower-ranking monks withdrew, and the entombment was left exclusively to the monastery's high monks and the Panchen Lama's family members. From then on the holy remains would be kept perpetually inside the chörten.

In early 1993, Tashilhunpo Monastery had commissioned a factory to build a 10-cubic-metre stainless steel box capable of resisting temperatures as high as 2,000°C, as well as a sandalwood shrine box. The late Panchen Lama's holy body was first put in the sandalwood shrine, the shrine was placed inside the stainless steel box, and then the box was lowered into the bottle-shaped interior of the chörten. The top of the chörten was sealed with a silver sculpture of the late Panchen Lama for people to worship.

Three Days of Prayers and Dedications

The ceremony was followed by three days of prayer sessions held on the second floor of the memorial hall. A bonfire was built outside on the second and third of September as part of a ritual to ward off evil and invoke blessings. The ceremony on September 2 was presided over by Living Buddha Garqin, a Tantric master at



Despite her advanced age and the harsh alpine conditions, the Panchen Lama's mother came to Tibet from Qinghai several times to take part in the construction of the memorial hall.

Tashilhunpo Monastery. The ceremony on September 3 was chaired by Living Buddha Qogyi, a Tantric master from Qinghai Province whose task was to exorcise demons and ask for protection and safety for the holy body and the chörten.

Wearing religious robes, both masters conducted the ceremonies while sitting on a throne, in front of which was a large square vat. Twelve sacrificial offerings were laid out on tables placed on either side of the vat, and several rows of monks in yellow-and-maroon robes sat facing the vat. At 4:00 in the afternoon of September 2, amidst the tinkling of bells and the beating of drums, the fire in the vat was lit with a cloth wrapped baton soaked in butter oil. The music and incantations reached a climax as various offerings — grain, scriptures, holy water and medicines — were put into the vat. All the while the presiding Living Buddha sitting high above poured oil into the vat to keep the fire burning.

The purpose of the fire is to summon the spirit protectors of the Dharma and ask them to bestow blessings and keep away evil spirits. It also is said to invest the sculptures and paintings inside the memorial hall with potency and convey the multitude's numerous wishes: for the peace and safety of the soul of the late Panchen Lama, the indestructi-



Offerings are laid out before the chörten.

bility of his chörten and success in quickly finding his reincarnation.

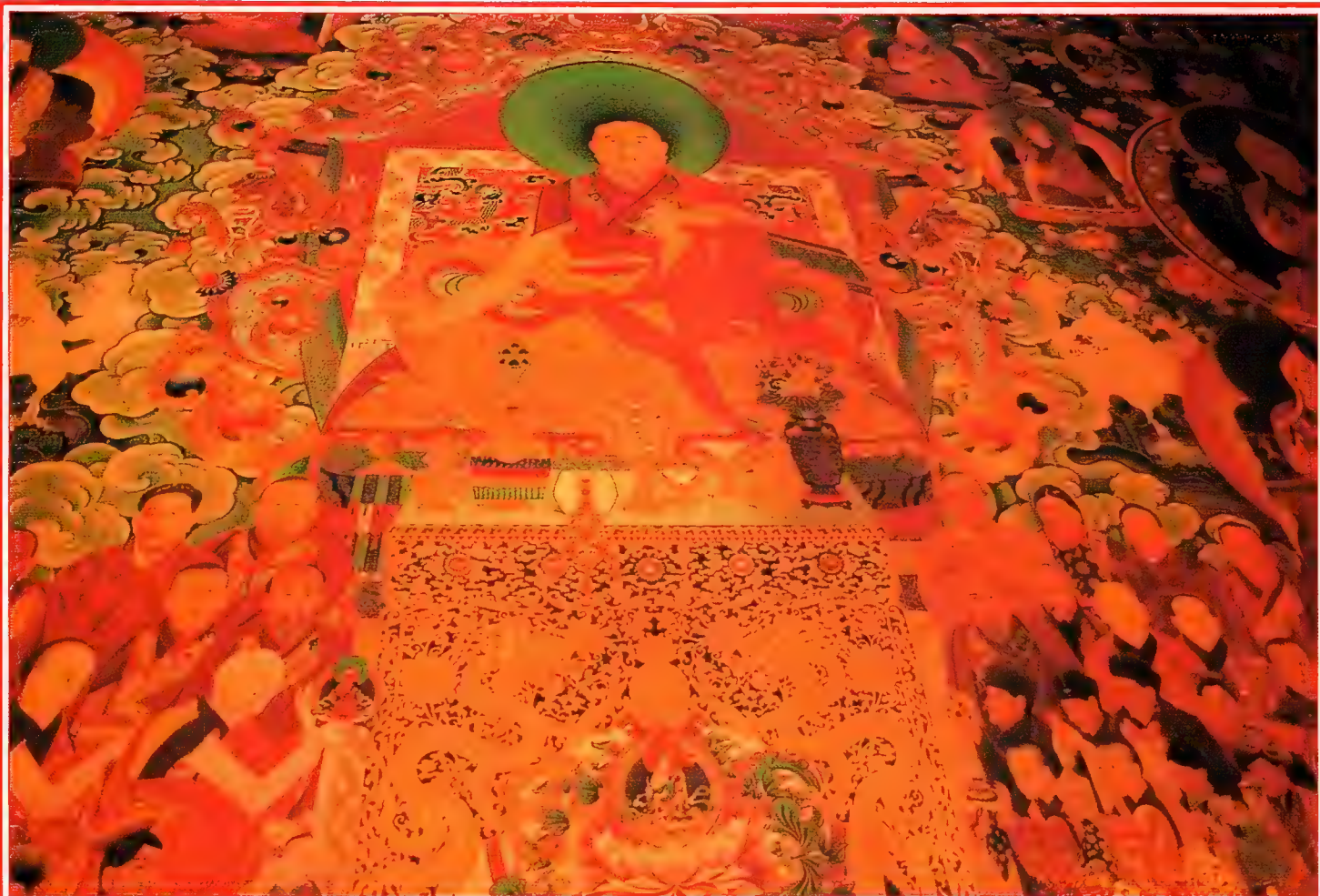
Another ceremony to inaugurate the new memorial hall — this one for the general populace — was held on September 4. Piles of gifts presented by people from all walks of life were laid out: complete sets of the Mahayana Pitaka Sutra, vases, incense burners, silk, brocades, tea, etc. There were also colourful flags and streamers presented by various governments, people from the late lama's native town and various monasteries.

The festive atmosphere was heightened by the presence of a huge seven-storey pagoda which contained alms — whole skinned yaks, sheep and cereals. The abundance of sacrificial offerings was testimony to the Tibetan people's devotion to their deceased religious leader.

When the ceremony got underway at 8:00 a.m., the site reverberated with the sound of trumpets, drums and cymbals, and a congregation of 800 high-ranking monks began murmuring chants and mantras in memory of the late Panchen Lama. At 12:30 the ceremony to dedicate the chörten began. The pair of colourful ribbons that were tied on the front gate of the memorial hall were untied. When the largest butter oil lamp in front of the chörten was lit, the hall was flooded with light.

The Most Valuable Chörten in Tibet

In the Tibetan tradition, when someone dies his remains are either interred in a chörten, cremated, thrown into a river or buried. Chörtens, the highest form of Tibetan burial, are limited to the Dalai Lamas, Panchen Lamas and a tiny number of prestigious Living Buddhas. Their
(Continued on page 90)



This mural depicts images of the 10th Panchen Lama (centre), leaders of the various sects of Tibetan Buddhism (bottom left) and the late Panchen Lama's family members (bottom right)



A mural inside the hall



The ceiling of the hall is decorated with a mandala.



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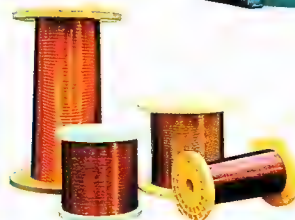
Having grown out of Guangdong Animal By-Products Imp. & Exp. Corp., which has an import and export trade history of 43 years, the Guangdong Animal By-Products Imp. & Exp. (Group) Corp. has formed an international marketing network with more than 500 customers all over the world and 5 foreign companies in America, Germany and Hong Kong. The corporation had an import and export trade value reaching over 200 million US Dollars in 1992, being one of the ten largest export corporations in Guangdong Province. Having established 26 factories to supply top quality products for companies in China, the corporation introduced advanced equipment in the 1980's for shoe-making, garment-making and down-washing. Furthermore, the carpets, down products, down garments and leather garments managed by the corporation have won international prestige.

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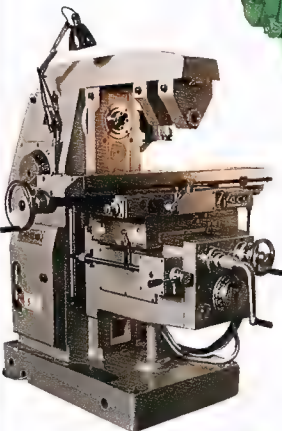
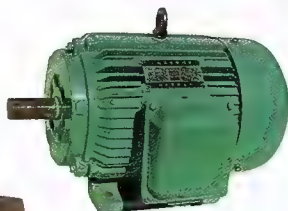
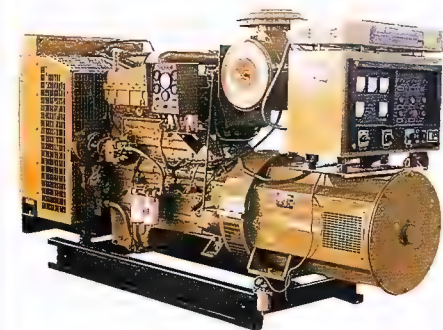
It also contracts for processing with supplied drawings, samples & parts, producing goods with customer's brand, compensation trade, co-production, joint venture, joint bidding and providing overseas technical service, etc.



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These cormorants are used to catch fish.



Preparing to celebrate the installation of the main beam of a new house



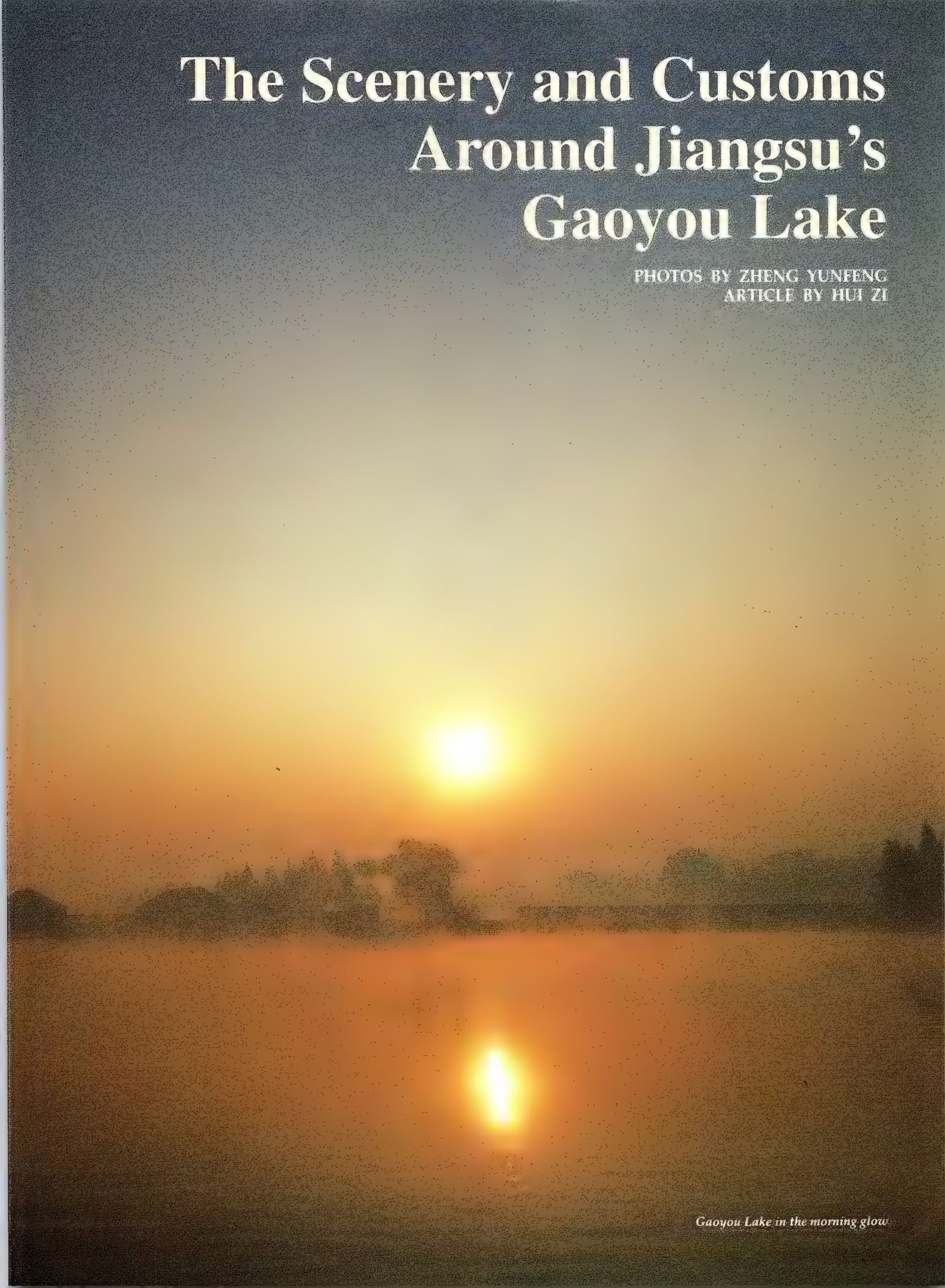
Mother and son take a stroll along the Grand Canal.



In his leisure time this fisherman makes handicrafts, which he will sell locally to supplement his income.

The Scenery and Customs Around Jiangsu's Gaoyou Lake

PHOTOS BY ZHENG YUNFENG
ARTICLE BY HUI ZI



Gaoyou Lake in the morning glow



The ancient Grand Canal runs through northern Jiangsu, irrigating the land and providing an important waterway for transportation.

One morning in early April, two other people and I took a car from the city of Yangzhou in Jiangsu Province and drove along the Grand Canal towards Gaoyou — an ancient city that sits just beside Gaoyou Lake. River and highway transportation between Yangzhou and Gaoyou is very convenient; it takes about two hours by steam boat or one hour by bus to reach the city.

Along the way we passed through rural areas with beautiful scenery. The rows of grey-brick buildings we saw were mostly two-storey structures, built in the style of villas. Some had glazed tiles, upturned eaves and wooden brackets inserted between the top of columns and cross-beams, giving them the look of a traditional Chinese house.

A Ceremony for Installing a House Beam

Suddenly we heard the sound of firecrackers being let off up ahead. Before long we came upon some people who were carrying baskets full of celebratory foods: “longevity cakes”, “longevity peaches”, “moon cakes”, red carps and chickens, all covered with pieces of red paper. We were told that these foods were for celebrating the installation of a house beam.

Building a house is a very important event for farmers in China, so they naturally want the house to last as long as possible. For auspicious reasons, therefore, they invite a geomancer to select the right place to build the house. After the house frame is completed, they choose an auspicious day to install the main beam, and on that day all their neighbours come to offer their congratulations. The scene is one of great bustle and excitement.

When we arrived at the house, we saw that couplets had been pasted in the centre of the house frame and the ceremonial food had been laid out on a table. Before the beam was installed, the whole family burnt

incense, kowtowed and prayed to the gods to protect them and make them prosperous. They then sang a “beam song” while the carpenters installed the main beam.

When the beam was put into place, a piece of red cloth was hung on each end together with two flowers made of gold foil. The carpenters began to throw the “longevity cakes” and “longevity peaches” down from the beam, and those who came to see the celebration vied to catch the food. The more one caught, the luckier one felt.

The host of the house told us that the ceremony had to be held before daybreak, when the Ziwei Star was just about to drop over the horizon. The Ziwei Star, according to legend, is the sign of a prince on the earth, and is regarded as the source of all happiness and good fortune. At the end of the ceremony, the host put on a feast for the carpenters who installed the house beam.

Sites Along the Grand Canal

We got back in the car, continued travelling north along the Grand Canal and soon arrived at the Xuanhe (Hanging River) area. Silt deposits had raised the river-bed of the Grand Canal in this section, and a tall dike had been built to control flooding. This meant that the river was actually three metres above ground. We all felt a bit uneasy as we thought of a river flowing right overhead.

In the past, during drought seasons the Grand Canal would often dry up, but now it has been widened and deepened in northern Jiangsu, so that no longer happens. The section from Yangzhou to Gaoyou is one kilometre wide, the widest part of the whole Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal. When we stopped at a water-pumping station at Jiangdu, people told us that the water there flows backwards from south to north. This water-pumping station was the first part of a project designed to reverse the flow of water and send it northward. The eastern part of the project

"Longevity cakes", "longevity peaches" and "moon cakes" are traditional foods for celebrating the installation of one's house beam.



As the sun sets, boats return home full of fish and prawns.



Cormorants are good assistants for fishermen. Sometimes two or three birds will work together to catch a particularly huge fish. A well-trained cormorant can catch 100 pounds of fish a day.



The farmers here use windmills to help irrigate their fields.

uses the section of the Grand Canal near Yangzhou to transport water from the Yangtze River to the north, and when the project is completed the water will flow across the Yellow River like a “flyover”, then run along the ancient river course of the Grand Canal all the way to Tianjin. The completion of the Jiangdu Water-Pumping Station was the first phase of the project, and now supplies water to the Grand Canal to irrigate the whole of northern Jiangsu.

We continued to move northeastward and arrived at Gaoyou in about 20 minutes. Gaoyou is crisscrossed with rivers and streams, making transportation very convenient. The name of this city dates back to long, long ago. In 221 B.C. when Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty, unified the whole country, he began to institute the first postal service. A postal pavilion for exchanging documents and letters was built in this area, and the place was thus called Qinyou (Qin Postal Station). Since the postal pavilion was constructed on a high platform, the place’s name was later changed to Gaoyou (High Postal Station).

In 1985, an ancient postal station called Yucheng was discovered to the south of Gaoyou City. The Yucheng Postal Station is the largest and most well preserved of any postal station ever discovered in China. This invaluable archaeological site has contributed greatly to the study of China’s ancient postal system.

After lunch, some local friends took us to visit the ancient Wenyou (Scholar Visiting) Terrace. The terrace is located at the juncture of the

Yangzhou-Huaiyin Highway and the Gaoyou-Xinghua Highway in the northeastern part of Gaoyou City. We could see from a distance a group of ancient structures standing on top of a hill. Wenyou Terrace does not only consist of a single terrace, it is actually a group of structures: Sixian (Four Wise Men) Temple, Yingcui (Green Reflecting) Garden, Chongguang (Double Light) Pavilion, Hezan (Meeting Friends) Hall and the terrace itself.

The terrace complex was first built in 976 during the Northern Song Dynasty as an imperial mountain palace where the emperor could stay when he was away from the capital. Later, the renowned Northern Song scholar Su Shi met with local scholars at this place when he was passing through Gaoyou, thus it became known as Scholar Visiting Terrace. Ever since the Northern Song Dynasty, the terrace has attracted men of letters from all over the country who would come here and meet with friends. Emperor Qianlong (r. 1736-1795) of the Qing Dynasty also came here once to see the terrace and compose poems.

Below the terrace is Sixian Temple, which commemorates Qin Guan, Su Shi, Sun Jue and Wang Gong. Yingcui Garden and Chongguang Pavilion stand beside the temple, and “Qin Guan’s Reading Platform” is behind it. Wenyou Terrace has two storeys: On the lower level is a 2.55-metre-high statue of Qin Guan (1049-1100), a Northern Song-dynasty poet, and from the upper level, one has an excellent view of the whole ancient city of Gaoyou.



This woman does weaving to supplement her income.



A bird’s-eye view of part of Gaoyou Lake

Fishermen's children spend their childhood on boats, thus they must wear life preservers when they play in case they should fall into the water.





The lotus seeds and lotus roots produced in Baoying are popular local products. In the summer, the ponds here are full of lotus flowers.

Gaoyou Lake's Abundant Aquatic Products

The next day at dawn we set out for Gaoyou Lake. Driving along the Grand Canal, we saw the dim outline of a pagoda hidden in the morning mist. Later we found out it was called Zhengguosi (Guarding-the-Country Temple) Pagoda.

We stopped at a ferry pier where people were bustling about selling fish, prawns and crabs. Squeezing through the crowds, we saw a tugboat anchored by the lakeside. The fishermen came ashore, carrying loads of fish and prawns which they then sold to the local peddlers. In turn they bought vegetables, fruit and daily commodities, then returned to their boat and prepared to sail to the other side of the lake. We followed them and hitched a ride in their boat to the western side of the lake.

Long ago in this area there were 12 large and five shallow lakes which connected to each other through a series of waterways. Whenever there was a flood, the water levels rose and eventually all the lakes became one large one, today's Gaoyou Lake.

Gaoyou Lake covers an area of 76,000 hectares and has an average depth of 5.55 metres. The lake has abundant aquatic products, including over 20 kinds of fish such as whitebait, carp, crucian carp, river eels, prawns, crabs and turtles. Of these, the most well-known are the whitebait, river eels and crabs.

The waterfowl that live here are mainly wild ducks and sandgrouse, both of which are quite tasty. One of the lake's specialties is domestically-raised Gaoyou Mallard, said to be equal to Peking Duck or Shaoxing Duck — together called the three famous types of duck in China. Gaoyou Lake also has plenty of water plants such as reeds, rushes, water chestnuts and crown daisy chrysanthemum, an edible water plant which is delicious and crisp.

We had a chance to visit a few fishermen's homes by the lake. We discovered that the fishermen all had sideline productions: Some did

weaving with reeds, bamboo strips or cane, some raised geese and ducks, and others made plaster figures. There were fishermen who grew vegetables on the lake shore, and some who raised fish in net cages.

The fishermen here made their own bait made of cooked wheat flour, which is first made into strips and then dried. Before they went fishing, they pinned the bait to the five-metre-square fishing net and then lowered it into the water. Every half an hour or so they pulled the net up, very often reaping quite a catch.

The sun was well up but the fishermen were still waiting on the shore. We felt puzzled and asked some people why. We were told that the fishermen had to watch the weather: They would set sail only when the wind began to rise. Before long, a wind rose up on the calm lake and all the fishing boats started to sail towards its centre.

A fleet of boats that looked different from the others caught my attention. One large boat was pulling a dozen small ones, forming a chain of boats. Each boat had six or seven cormorants lined up along its sides, which would be used by the fishermen to help them catch fish.

Our boat sailed towards the centre and when we arrived, the captain threw the fishing net into the lake. A short time later the net was pulled back up, full of fish which were jumping and leaping. I hurried to help take out the fish and prawns and put them into baskets. By noon we already had quite a good catch, which happily included three large crabs, rare at this time of year.

It was still quite early when a few of the boats began returning back home. This was because after sunset the wind would die down, rendering their sails useless. As the setting sun was dying the whole lake red, the rest of the fishermen returned home with their catch of fish and prawns, another busy day at an end. The small boats were abandoned on the quiet beach, leaving the beautiful Gaoyou Lake in peace and tranquility.

Translated by M. Q.



The baskets in the background are strung together in groups of three or five and are used for catching crabs.

When the fishing season comes to an end, fishermen hang their fishing gear all over their houses, making them resemble fishing gear shops.



The lakes and ponds in the Baoying area of Gaoyou are common places to raise geese and ducks.

A Two-Day Tour of Gaoyou Lake

PHOTOS BY ZHENG YUNFENG TEXT BY AH HUI

There are six buses every day that go between Yangzhou and Gaoyou. Mini-buses also travel between the two cities, and cost about eight yuan one way. The bus from Yangzhou passes the Jiangdu Water-Pumping Station, runs northward along the eastern dike of the Grand Canal, and arrives in the downtown area of Gaoyou City after an hour and 30 minutes. One can stay at the Qinyuan Guesthouse on Fuqian Street or at the Gaoyou Guesthouse on Zhongshan Road. Room rates are between 50-100 yuan, with a standard double room costing the most.

On the first day one can visit tourist sites in the city like the ancient Wenyou Terrace, the Wang Family Memorial Hall, the ancient Zhenguosi Pagoda, Jingtusi (Pure Land Temple) Pagoda and the ancient Yucheng Postal Station. On the second day one can sail around



Ancient Wenyou Terrace

Gaoyou Lake and enjoy the natural scenery.

Wenyou (Scholar Visiting) Terrace A 15-minute walk from the Qinyuan Guesthouse will take you to Wenyou Terrace, which is actually a group of temples and other buildings, including Sixian (Four Wise Men) Temple and Chongguang (Double Light) Pavilion. There is also a garden here that is covered with bamboo. Behind the temple is Qin Guan's Reading Platform. Qin Guan, one of the four "wise men" revered here, studied on this platform before he went to the capital for the imperial examinations at the age of 34. The platform is fairly high, therefore one has a good view of the ponds at the foot of the hill. Strolling east from the platform and going up some steps, one will come to Hezan (Meeting Friends) Hall, where the four scholars met and discussed their writing. Inside the hall, the walls are inlaid with more than 60 inscribed tablets with poems by well-known poets throughout history.

The Wang Family Memorial Hall The Wang Family Memorial Hall is located at 21 Xihou Street in downtown Gaoyou. It takes 10 minutes by foot to reach the hall from the Qinyuan Guesthouse, going via Zhongshan Road.

The memorial hall was once the residence of a man named Wang Niansun (1744-1832) and his son Wang Yinzhi (1766-1834), who were both phonologists and critical interpreters of ancient texts in the Qing Dynasty. In the hall there are biographical records of the Wangs, as well as calligraphic works and paintings by famous people. The hall looks rather like an ancient-style reading room.

In China the study of phonology and the critical interpretation of ancient texts were well developed during the reigns of Emperors

Qianlong (1736-1795) and Jiaqing (1796-1820) of the Qing Dynasty, because at that time there were a number of great masters who special-



This painting of Wang Niansun hangs in the Wang Family Memorial Hall.

ized in the study of Confucian classics and linguistics. Wang Niansun and his son Wang Yinzhi of Gaoyou were outstanding examples of these great masters.

Zhenguosi (Guarding-the-Country Temple) Pagoda If you walk out of town along Tonghu Road for 15 minutes, you will find yourself at the dike of the Grand Canal, from where you will see a rectangular pagoda rising up from the canal. This is called Zhenguosi Pagoda, and is valued greatly by specialists of ancient architecture. The pagoda was first built during the reign of Emperor Xizong (874-888) of the Tang Dynasty. In 1956 when the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal was being widened, the pagoda was slated for destruction. After careful study, however, government departments decided to keep the pagoda, even though the cost was high. So a small inlet, measuring 2.6 hectares in area, was kept in the middle of the canal, on which the pagoda still stands.

Jingtusi (Pure Land Temple) Pagoda There are two pagodas in Gaoyou City, one on the west side and the other in the southeast. The west one, Zhenguosi Pagoda, is called the West Pagoda, and the southeast one is the Jingtusi Pagoda, or the East Pagoda. Built during the reign of Emperor Wanli (1573-1620) of the Ming Dynasty, the pagoda has seven storeys. The East Pagoda and the West Pagoda stand far apart but facing each other. A story known by




all the local people says that the East Pagoda is male and the West Pagoda is female. Every night, the East Pagoda moves closer to the West Pagoda until it embraces it. As day breaks, the two pagodas reluctantly part.

Yucheng Postal Station Gaoyou's extremely long history is perhaps best seen in its ancient postal station, built during the reign of the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.). The ancient Yucheng Postal Station is located at the entrance of Guanyi Lane outside of the South Gate.

What remains of the Yucheng Postal Station are, incredibly, more than 100 halls and rooms, including the Yamen-runners Halls, the Official's Hall, the East Residential Gate Hall and the residential section used by postal officials. They are typical examples of mid-Qing Dynasty architecture.



Zhenguosi Pagoda

Gaoyou Lake It is very easy to visit Gaoyou Lake from Gaoyou City, as the city is right beside the lake. We suggest that you set out early in the morning. After a 20-minute walk, you will arrive at a ferry pier on the Grand Canal. A small steamboat will take you in just five minutes to the other side, where you will find the lake right in front of you. If you arrive early enough, you will see hundreds of fishing boats anchored in the bay, the smoke from their kitchens rising up into the sky. At that time the fishermen are preparing their breakfast and just getting ready to set sail. You can talk to the fishermen and ask them to take you onto the lake with them; this will cost about 15-20 yuan per person. On their boats, you can enjoy the lake scenery and have a delicious lunch of fish and prawns. If you go with a group, you can hire a motorboat at the cost of 200 yuan and spend a whole day cruising the lake.  Translated by M. Q.



Jingtusi Pagoda, built in the Ming Dynasty, is a seven-storey hexagonal brick pagoda. A peach tree grows on the top of the pagoda and is popularly known as a "celestial peach", which adds an air of mystery to the ancient pagoda.

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CHINA TOURISM MAGAZINE

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◀ These flutes are carved with poems written by well-known scholars throughout history (by Chan Yat Nin).



During the Flute Festival parade, townspeople dressed up as fairies and played music through the streets and lanes (by Er Dongqiang).

Yuping's Bamboo Flutes

TEXT BY XIAO JUN



Large flutes like this one have good tonal qualities (by Chan Yat Nin).

Beijing, Shanghai and Suzhou each have their own reasons for being famous, but when it comes to bamboo flutés, the town of Yuping in eastern Guizhou Province is the place that first comes to my mind.

Yuping flutes were once a favourite instrument of China's imperial families. In the Ming Dynasty, Emperor Shenzong (r. 1573-1620) promulgated a decree that Yuping flutes be sent as tribute to the court every year. This greatly increased the reputation of the Yuping flute, which has been a treasured musical instrument ever since.

In October 1991, Yuping sponsored a flute festival in order to

promote the town and its speciality. During the festival the whole town was bustling with activity. In addition to dragon and lion dances, the country folk, dressed as fairies, sat in decorated vehicles and played flutes in all the streets and lanes.

Legend has it that in 1637, a Yuping local called Zheng Weifan went with a Taoist priest to tour Feifeng (Phoenix Flying) Mountain in the western suburbs of Yuping. The mountain was overgrown with bamboo, and the old priest broke off a length to take home with him. When he blew it, to his surprise the bamboo produced a melodious tune. He did some work to it, and voilà, the first Yuping flute was born.

The old priest was a humble man who did not want to earn a name for himself through making flutes, so he passed the technique on to Zheng Weifan as a token of thanks for taking care of him once when he was ill. Zheng Weifan began to make the new bamboo flutes, each carved with the inscription "Buqishan Ren" (Buqi Mountain Man), the assumed name of the priest, to commemorate his old companion.

Originally, the method of making flutes was a secret handed down only within the Zheng family. But later, Zheng Weifan's descendants taught other families, and flute-making became a popular trade in Yuping. During the town's most prosperous periods there were 20 or 30 flute-making workshops.



Customers usually first test the quality of the flutes before buying (by Er Dongqiang).

Today, there are many types of flutes: the traditional semi-toned *pingxiao*, the key-noted *dongxiao* and the *daxiao*, which has a larger diameter and better tonal quality.

Yuping is an ideal setting for the flute-making industry because of the abundance of wild bamboo, a material which can be easily carved with patterns or poems. Generally, wild bamboo has an interior diam-

eter of 14-16 millimetres — just the right size for flutes. It also has the correct length between the joints for the six finger holes.

The *pingxiao* flute is usually carved with designs of dragons, phoenixes, landscapes or poems. If a pair of flutes is made, the size, joints, grain and carved patterns must match. The poems inscribed must be inspiring, profound and sentimental.

The flute inscriptions are themselves fine examples of calligraphic art. *Zhuan* (seal characters), *xing* (characters in the “running hand”) and *cao* (characters executed swiftly with the strokes flowing together) must be employed properly. Sometimes a small bamboo flute is carved with a poem of over a thousand characters. Because the characters are so small, when the engravers carve inscriptions they have to rely solely on the “spirit” or feeling of their hands, rather than on their eyes. They use a steel chisel called a *burin* to carve the characters as well as the dragon and phoenix patterns. Examined under a magnifying glass, an entire line of more than 90 characters can be distinctly seen on one flute alone, and often a whole poem is written in beautiful calligraphy — truly a remarkable feat.

There may not be as many flute players now as there once were in Yuping, but if you want to buy souvenirs or presents for friends, the bamboo flute is an excellent choice. Although the recipient may know nothing about flute-playing, it is still a delightful work of art.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru



▲ The Yuping Flute Festival livened up this ancient town (by Er Dongqiang).



This shop has a very long history of selling bamboo flutes (by Er Dongqiang).



A bamboo flute carver hard at work (by Chan Yat Nin)



Outside of this workshop, wild bamboo is piled up to await carving (by Chan Yat Nin).

The Delicate Art of Glass Painting


PHOTOS & TEXT BY ZHAO YINGJIAN

Painter Guan Guosheng, who has lived on the grasslands of Inner Mongolia since childhood, is a master of the art of glass painting. Images of his homeland come alive on the crystalline surface, complete with all the vastness and richness of the real landscape.

Glass painting makes use of the transparency of the glass to create a strong sense of perspective. When his works are on display in an exhibition hall, this effect is even more obvious. The space between the glass painting and the background behind it, the position of the viewer and the changing light from outside, all come together to create a multi-dimensional impression that no other kind of painting can achieve.

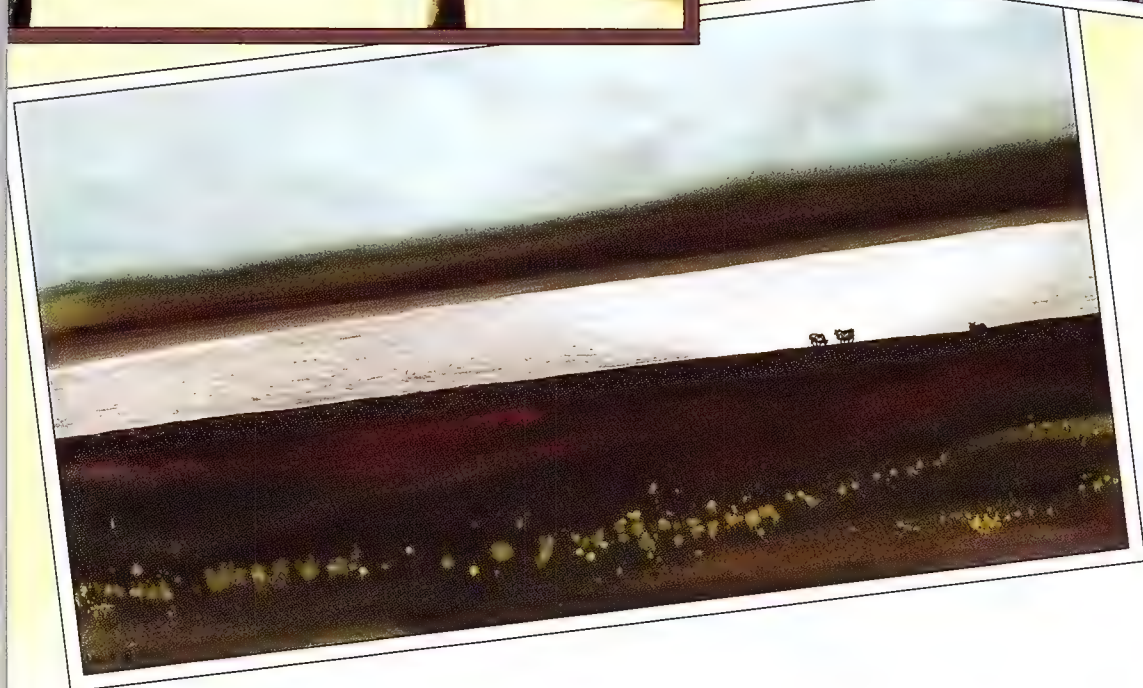
The particularly smooth surface of transparent glass means that it can easily accept different media, including oil colours, watercolours and *gouache*. Once the paint has been applied, the colours stick to the glass and do not rub off easily, nor do they change colour or texture.

One of the unusual features of glass painting is that the designing of the whole composition must be done in reverse, including any words that might be written on it, thus when the painting is finished the reverse side becomes the front. This clearly adds an extra dimension of difficulty to the art, and requires special care and attention.

Guan Guosheng's glass paintings are more delicate than oil paintings, more lustrous than watercolours, and richer in colour than ink paintings. Glass painting can be used for a wide variety of styles — abstract, realistic or romantic — and combines both traditional and modern methods. This unique art truly embodies the quest of traditional Chinese painters for a medium that can express the beauty of nature in all her varied forms. 

Translated by Gu Weizhou





The Strange and Wonderful World of Bamboo Root Carvings

PHOTOS & TEXT BY
CHEN ZHOU




A Weather-Beaten Old Man

This old man with wildly dishevelled hair and a hat has a wonderful expression on his face. By keeping the necessary parts of the bamboo root and cutting off the surplus, the artist has created an entirely lifelike figure. The uneven fibrous roots have not been trimmed, giving the old man a particularly weather-beaten and scruffy look.

China ranks first in the world in both its variety and quantity of bamboo. The Chinese people's love for this special gift of nature is most profoundly expressed in their artistic use of bamboo wood which can be made into any number of beautiful objects. Of the various types of bamboo art, bamboo root carvings must surely be among the most interesting and unique.

In fact, an uncarved bamboo root is a work of art in itself. Its smooth surface and rough fibrous roots offer a sharp contrast between soft and coarse materials. Furthermore, its unique grain, the even spacing between the joints and its smooth texture make it an ideal material for engraving.

When an artist picks up a clump of natural bamboo root and prepares to carve it, there is often the feeling that it must be "tamed". This is a very subjective feeling, but it is precisely by relying on this intuition that the artist creates a new form through which he conveys the true beauty of the bamboo root. 

Translated by Xiong Zhenru



A Galloping Horse

The outstretched fibrous roots of this piece resemble the mane of a galloping horse. This simple carving not only makes one feel the wind in the horse's mane but also brings out the wild nature of an untamed horse galloping across a vast grassland.

Figure (1)

The artist that made this piece has deliberately widened the figure's eyes, ears and nose, carving them onto a bamboo joint whose fibrous roots have been cut off. The bamboo is polished, its grain uneven and the figure is divided into three distinct parts: the top of the head, the face and the body. The body is carved in straight lines to give an impression that the figure is very tall. The upper part of the carving is cut in horizontal lines and the lower part in vertical lines. Yet this asymmetrical and apparently inharmonious composition creates a truly harmonious effect.



Waiting Quietly for the Arrival of Spring

The dense fibrous roots of this piece have been carved to resemble a fur hat. The young woman wearing the hat is closing her eyes, quietly waiting for the passing of winter and the arrival of spring. Her determined but patient expression reflects the integrity of the bamboo.

Ox Horns

Put two bamboo roots together and tie a string round them, and in this case they become a pair of ox horns. The bristly hair on the ox's head is deliberately exaggerated to form an abstract yet reasonable representation of an ox head. Using the natural fibrous roots and the two main roots, this piece of art is one of great imagination.

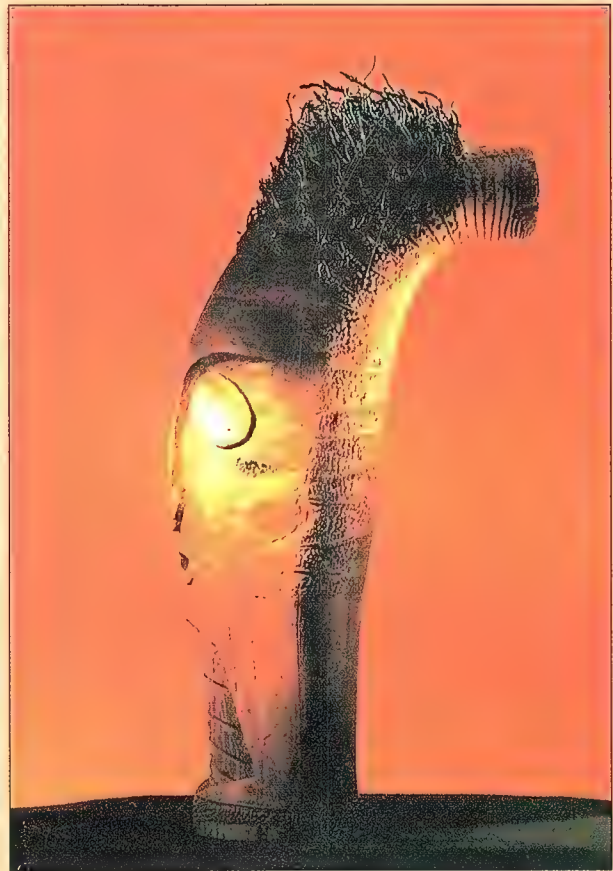


Figure (2)

This figure looks very strange at first glance, with its spiky hair and unusual shape. However the whole composition shows how the original shape of a bamboo root can be used and its texture enhanced. The carving follows the lines of the bamboo root, so that the outcome is one of complete natural beauty, perfect in its simplicity.

Chimpu's Hermitages of Solitary Realization

Rodney Hale Jones

The Chimpu Valley from the hermitage caves above

North of the Tibetan town of Samye and just over the ridge of Hepo Ri is a cluster of hills dotted with caves and festooned with ragged prayer flags. This is Chimpu, one of the Eight Solitary Places of Realization used for meditation by Padmasambhava, also known as Guru Rimpoche, the monk who brought Buddhism to Tibet, and one can see why he chose it. The hills look down on a desert valley scarred by dry river beds, and as you wind your way up the trails towards the hermitages, everything seems somehow more silent and profound. This is a place people go to be alone.

And that's why I went. I'd just had a falling out with my travelling companion, with whom I'd come overland from Nepal, and I needed to walk off my anger. I needed some of that solitary realization.

I set out for Chimpu early in the afternoon, making my way through the intricate little settlements that surround Samye and out into the desert valley, covered with long grass dried golden and brown. As I waded through the grass, a herd of goats the size of puppy dogs appeared, pursued by a band of young boys waving sticks. Finally I found the gully that was supposed to lead up to Chimpu, a wide river bed bordered with large rocks.

Above me the sky was crystalline blue, but behind me, in the gray shadows of the mountains opposite Chimpu, storm clouds were gathering. I marvelled at the largeness of the sky that could hold sunshine and rain all at once. The approaching storm gave out its scent, which mixed with the smell of juniper and dust.

As I ascended the gully became thinner, the path occasionally blocked by boulders or cows. The climb was interrupted every five or ten minutes

by a sudden grassy plateau, a field of wildflowers, perhaps a waterfall, appearing suddenly like a miracle.

And then the land leveled and I found myself in a deserted village, a ghost town of a few white and gray structures and some massive walls with one or two blank windows. Beyond, the path opened to a wide field of juniper bushes where two boys were wrestling around a fire, its smoke blue and fragrant. One of the boys noticed me and motioned me over. They stopped wrestling long enough to offer me tea from a blackened steel kettle, but as soon as I started to drink, they were on the ground again, laughing and rolling in the grass.

I shouted my thanks to my oblivious hosts and continued towards the peak, the sky above growing heavier by the minute with purple clouds. Suddenly I came to a broad stream spreading into a grassy marsh. The path disappeared, and, in its place, two or three steep narrow trails appeared, all equally uninviting. I chose one and began struggling through the undergrowth when the rain began. It fell slowly at first, in large, luscious, cooling drops, but soon turned into an onslaught. The way ahead was still obscured, but I had no choice but to press on up the slippery path.

Finally I reached a clearing and a wide, cream-colored temple. Outside a few boys were gathering picks and shovels into rusty piles. When I entered the low structure, it took a moment for my eyes to adjust to the darkness. When they did I saw that the earthen floor was literally covered with bodies: boys of various ages crouching, squatting, lounging upon one another, their silent faces turned intently up at me. I asked if anyone could speak Chinese, and was answered by silence. I asked again, and finally an older man sitting in the corner invited me in Mandarin to sit down next to him and directed one of the boys to fetch me a cup of tea.

The boys, he told me, were students in a school of Tibetan medicine and had come up into the hills to collect herbs. He was their teacher, and intensely proud of his profession. As he began explaining to me the marvels of Tibetan medicine, the boys began creeping slowly towards us until we were surrounded by close, curious smiles. I tried my best, through their teacher, to explain to the boys who I was and what I was doing, and they seemed as delighted in me as I was with them. Every single one of them tried on my hat. The storm was short, and when it finished we filed out underneath the clear, washed sky for a group picture.

The teacher introduced me to a lama who lived in a small hut next to the temple and who directed me towards the path to the hermitage caves, assuring me that I'd find a place to spend the night up there.

The path was steeper than ever and slippery after the storm, blocked here and there with thorns and brambles. I finally pulled myself up to a



Students of Tibetan medicine

flat place and found myself face to face with two nuns standing at the mouth of a cave, who smiled benignly and pointed farther up the mountain. After a few more minutes of climbing, I came across a charming cottage with an immaculate courtyard surrounded by a low stone fence. I called to see if anyone was inside, and immediately a short, shy-looking nun rushed out of one of the doors, giggled at me, opened the gate to the courtyard and scurried away up the path towards a white chorten shining in the distance.

When I entered the courtyard I was greeted by another nun, much older, who regarded me with calm amusement and motioned me into the cottage. The room was small and clean. Her bed stood underneath a window with a view of the valley so arresting that I envied her for being able to wake up every morning



The path to the caves

to such a sight. Directly opposite was an elaborate shrine to a Tantric deity taking up an entire wall, lit by glowing butter lamps. I settled myself on the dry floor, my legs still aching from the climb, and felt the peace of the room, with its burning butter lamps casting yellow light and the nun beaming at me. I didn't want to leave, but the light from the window was dimming fast; night was coming. So I thumbed through my guidebook to find the section of handy phrases for travellers, but before I could find it, she spotted the color plates of the Dalai Lama and snatched the book with joyous abandon. I knew I wasn't going to get much further until I carefully removed the pictures and presented them to her.

She told me by using sign language that there was a lama living not far from her who would give me a place to sleep, and then, to make sure I wouldn't get lost, practically dragged me through her cottage gate to the steep path leading up to the lama's hut. She pointed skyward and graced me with another smile.

This last path was the hardest, thin and muddy and choked with tangled vines. Then the clearing finally emerged and I found myself on a shelf of rock high above the world, looking out onto the wide and darkening valley. Before me stood a tiny house made completely of whitewashed stone, so small and neat it might have been a decoration on a cake. In front of the house, a white Tibetan tent was set up, and between the tent flaps I could see the round faces of two more nuns peering out at me. Later I found out that most of Chimpu's hermits are nuns who live in pairs, serving the lamas who come here for retreats.

They emerged from their tent and immediately escorted me into the dim, close interior of the lama's hut. The room was about twelve feet square, and in the center of it, practically taking up the entire space, was a huge red prayer wheel, a great cylinder reaching from floor to ceiling, more than six feet in diameter, decorated with gold Tibetan writing. The bottom of the wheel was rimmed with a steel railing, and the lama, who sat in the shadows in the far corner of the room, was turning it slowly by pushing against the railing with a forked stick.

My host was thin but tough-looking with skin the color of earth and dark, distracted eyes which he pointed suspiciously in my direction. He was wearing a tattered down-jacket, and his knees were covered with animal skins.

The nuns spread some more animal skins over the dirt floor in the opposite corner and motioned me to sit facing this silent, surly-looking priest who continued, with occasional shoves of his stick, to attend to the slow, squeaky revolution of the wheel. He watched me from the corner the way, I thought, one might observe a stray animal who has found its way into one's house.

The nuns, meanwhile, busied themselves with making me feel at home. Offering me cups of lumpy powdered milk and chewy crusts of bread

from a round tin, they then prepared their own dinner, tsampa mixed with water and mashed into a soft paste.

After dinner the chanting began. It started softly, the lama beginning a soft, dark mumbling from his corner which grew and took on a wave-like otherworldly rhythm, with the nuns adding their higher voices that wove like gold thread in and out of his own sullen baritone. Occasionally he would stop for just a moment, and the silence resting in that second seemed so heavy, so unbearable; then he'd clear his throat and continue.

I leaned back against the cool wall and let the sound wash over me,

feeling my limbs numb and tingling from the day's climb. The sun had set, and the only light was an oil lamp in the corner illuminating the lama's wrinkled face.

Suddenly he stopped chanting and looked at me, and, for the first time, a smile broke



Highland barley being harvested

out on his dry lips. He leaned forward, reached across the room towards me and handed me the forked stick he'd been using to turn his prayer wheel. The end of it where he had held it was worn smooth and black. He made a circle in the air with his finger and then pointed at me, as if to say, "Nobody stays here for free."

Maybe this was what I needed to purify my anger. So I set to work turning the prayer wheel while the lama chanted and let my mind wander over the places I'd been, and how every step of the way had led to that moment.

I couldn't tell you how long the chanting went on. It went on and on, and finally died down to a whisper and the sound of the lamp being extinguished, and the last, creaking turn of the prayer wheel.

The chanting began again at dawn. Now the lama had his stick back and didn't seem interested in me. So I made my offerings and goodbyes. The sun was warm on my face, and the valley seemed to shimmer below me. Not far away another nun was walking around a pure white chorten whose top sent out dozens of strings of prayer flags.

I hadn't slept much, but I felt oddly energized as I prepared to descend the mountain in search of my friend.

To get to Chimpu, take the ferry across the Tsangpo River to Samye, and then ask somebody to point you towards Chimpu. Somebody even might take you there, as it's a popular place for pilgrimages. The walk up takes four to six hours, the walk down only three. It's ideal for a day trek after spending a night at the monastery.



Two nuns in front of the lama's residence

Other Getaways in Southern Guangdong



Xiqiao Hill located in Nanhai

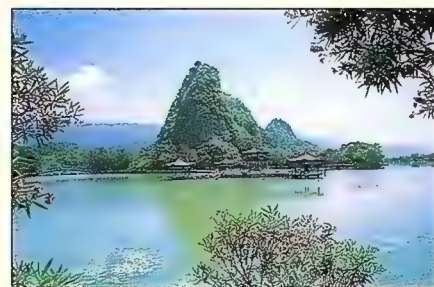
When people living in or visiting Hong Kong think of Guangdong Province, they often picture the cities of Shenzhen and Guangzhou, but not much else. Westerners in particular tend to associate the province with business opportunities, as Guangdong has been at the forefront of reforms to open China to the outside world. Although these impressions are not false, Guangdong also has an enormous amount to offer travellers and tourists. Besides Xiachuan and Shangchuan Islands (introduced in a main article in this issue), there are many other places that one can easily reach from Hong Kong, either for a weekend getaway or a longer excursion.

If it is a relaxing weekend soaking in hot springs that you want, the city of

Zhongshan is a good choice. There are ferries that run every day between Hong Kong and Zhongshan, situated just north of Zhuhai and Macau. Thirty-five kilometres from Zhongshan city proper is Sanxiang Town, the location of the Zhongshan Hot Spring Hotel, an elegant resort with spacious grounds and beautiful Chinese gardens. The hotel itself is a blend of traditional Chinese and modern architecture, and consists of 10 main buildings and 14 villas. Each of the 380 rooms has all the amenities of a top hotel, and guests can choose rooms with either regular or hot spring water. The hotel's facilities include a hot spring pool, tennis courts, horseback riding and both Chinese and Western restaurants.

Moving further north one will come to Nanhai, the location of the beautiful **Xiqiao Hill**, one of Guangdong's most well-known scenic spots. Xiqiao Hill is actually a dormant volcano with a lake filling its crater, and covers an area of about 10 square kilometres. Although the hills that make up the Xiqiao Hill Scenic Area are not very high — the tallest just 400 metres or so above sea level — there are numerous sights of interest here. In fact, people have counted a total of 72 hills, 36 caves, 21 cliffs, 32 springs and 28 large waterfalls, therefore one could spend several days here without getting bored. Visitors usually first make their way to Baiyun Cave, where hotels have been built that have swimming pools and other ameni-

ties. There is a waterfall just outside the cave, as well as a museum containing archaeological relics from nearby sites. Xiqiao Hill is located in Nanhai County southwest of the city of Foshan, which is easily accessible from Shenzhen or Guangzhou.



Seven Star Crag Park in Zhaoqing

From Foshan it is a short train ride to the lovely city of **Zhaoqing**, located west of Guangzhou. If one thinks that karst hills and caves can only be found in the Guilin area, one should visit Zhaoqing's Qixingyan (Seven Star Crag) Park in the centre of the city. For centuries travellers have been coming here to enjoy the karst hill scenery of Qixingyan Park, which now includes a man-made lake that greatly enhances the hills' natural beauty. Some of the pavilions and temples in Qixingyan Park were built as long ago as the 16th century, and one can still see poems carved on cave walls by famous poets of old. Apart from Qixingyan Park, Zhaoqing also has a number of other places worth a visit, and its quiet, tree-lined streets make it an ideal city to explore on foot or by bicycle.

Just 20 kilometres outside of Zhaoqing is the 1,004-metre-tall **Dinghu Mountain**, a popular place to visit during the hot summer months. The scenery here is excellent and the vegetation lush, with over 1,700 species of plant life. For this reason the mountain has been included in the World Nature Protection Association and has been named one of UNESCO's ecology research centres. It is a perfect place to wander amongst pools and waterfalls or to climb hills, and there is also a monastery here that dates back to the year 1633. Called Qingyun Monastery, it is considered one of the four most important Buddhist monasteries in southern China.

To reach Zhaoqing, the easiest way is to take a high-speed ferry from Hong Kong, which leaves on alternate days and takes about five hours. One can also go by ferry or train to Zhaoqing from Guangzhou.

Ninety-one kilometres west of Zhaoqing is the town of Yuecheng, the site of **Longmu (Dragon Mother) Temple**. This temple is a place of pilgrimage for people who worship the Dragon Mother, a talented fortune-teller who lived over 2,100 years ago during the Qin Dynasty. Legend has it that she found an egg one day in the Xijiang River, which she took home to hatch. Out of it came five dragons who became her sons, thus her title of Dragon Mother. It is also said that the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty heard of her and, after her death, had a temple built in her memory. The Longmu Temple in Yuecheng, however, was built in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), then renovated in the Yuan (1271-1368) and again in 1903.

One of the best times to visit the temple is during a festival such as the Dragon Mother's birthday, which falls in June, but it is worth a visit at any time for its beautiful architecture and surroundings. There are also other places of interest in Deqing County besides Longmu Temple. An old Confucian temple has been rebuilt into a museum of history of the area, and there is a Qing-dynasty pagoda called Sanyuan Pagoda which stands alongside the Xijiang River. Both Yuecheng and Deqing can be reached by bus or river boat from Zhaoqing, and one can find lodging at the Overseas Chinese Hotel in Deqing. (For more details on the Dragon Mother Temple, please see the Travellers' Corner in issue No. 141 of *China Tourism*.)

For those who have a bit more time and enjoy getting off the tourist route, the towns along the **Moyang River** south of

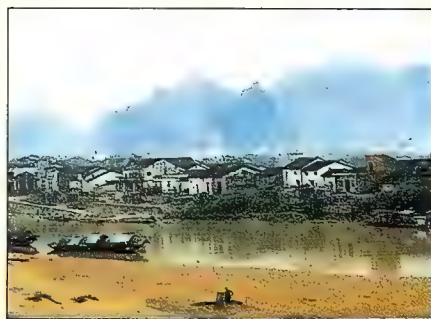
Zhaoqing might prove an interesting choice. The Moyang River has its source in the Yunwu Mountains and runs south for 200 kilometres, where it ends by flowing into the South China Sea. Along its banks are numerous karst hills and limestone caves, topographical features common to this area. Starting out in the town of Yunfu, one can make their way (by bus and sometimes by boat) all along the river to Yangjiang near the coast, where one can reach Hailing Island to enjoy the sun and relax on a beach.



Moisture-formed crystals in Shizi Mountain's Panlong Cave at Yunfu

The main attraction in the town of Yunfu, the start of this river journey, is Panlong Cave, located on Shizi (Lion) Mountain just northeast of the town. The cave is known for its unusual crystal formations locally known as Mist Fossils, as they are the result of the misty conditions inside the cave. From Yunwu, one can continue south following the Moyang River to Xinxing, then go a bit further south to Longshan (Dragon Hill). On the top of Dragon Hill is Guo'en Temple, a very important pilgrimage site for Buddhists because it is where Hui Neng (638-713), a great Zen master, lived and died. At the foot of Dragon Hill one can find lodging at the Longshan Hot Spring Hotel. The water in the hot springs is 72.8 °C and contains minerals said to be helpful for curing skin diseases, diabetes and rheumatism.

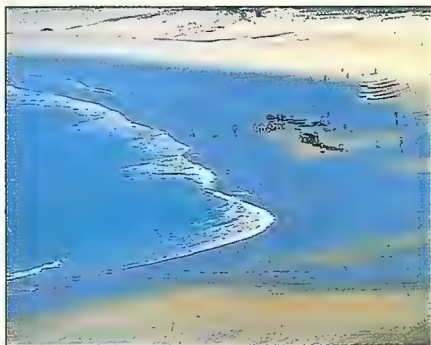
Moving southward along the Moyang River one will come to the town of



A waterside village at Chunwan

Chunwan. One of the many sites worth visiting here is Tongzhen Hill, where one has a panoramic view of the area's lovely karst scenery. One especially interesting limestone peak rises directly up out of a lake, which in itself is a scenic spot. If you want to see some of the limestone caves along the river, you can take a bus north for about 30 kilometres to the town of Sanlong. At the town pier you can find pleasure boats that will take you upstream and into the mouth of a 50-metre-high cave. When the boat comes out through the exit of the cave it continues through a valley of green paddy fields and then returns to the pier. This is just one of several large and impressive water caves in the region, another of which — Kongtong Cave — has a Yuan-dynasty temple constructed inside it as well as Buddhist statues.

The next stop along the river is Yanjiang County, home of the Lingnan kite, which has been made here for over 1,300 years. From here it is but a short distance to Zhapo, a coastal town at the mouth of the Moyang River. Zhapo is actually situated on Hailing Island, which is linked to the mainland by a long dike. The island is a popular place for people from Guangzhou and other cities to come and enjoy the beaches. Summer weekends are particularly busy, but the vast Dajiaowan Bay beach can hold hundreds of holiday-makers at a time. This island makes an ideal place to relax at the end of one's riverside journey, and is quite close to Xiachuan and Shangchuan Islands.



A beach at Zhapo

Flights to and from Harbin

| Route | Days of Week | Dep. | Arr. | Flight No. |
|--------------------|---------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Beijing — Harbin | 1 | 09:55 | 11:25 | CJ6170 |
| | 2 | 11:50 | 13:20 | G8611 |
| | 2 | 12:35 | 14:10 | XO9601 |
| | 3 | 15:25 | 17:00 | CJ6186 |
| | 3 | 20:20 | 21:50 | CJ6180 |
| | 4 | 08:10 | 09:50 | X2163 |
| | 4 | 16:45 | 18:20 | CJ6188 |
| | 5 | 19:40 | 21:15 | CJ6962 |
| | 6 | 10:20 | 11:55 | SZ4623 |
| | 6 | 18:10 | 19:45 | CJ6576 |
| | 7 | 09:25 | 10:55 | CJ6172 |
| | 7 | 10:25 | 12:00 | SZ4643 |
| | 7 | 12:20 | 14:05 | X2167 |
| | 7 | 20:20 | 21:50 | CJ6180 |
| | 1 3 | 10:15 | 11:50 | 3U601 |
| | 1 4 | 08:30 | 10:15 | CA1603 |
| | 1 5 | 17:10 | 18:45 | CJ6176 |
| | 2 7 | 17:05 | 18:40 | CJ6166 |
| | 3 5 | 13:20 | 15:00 | CA1623 |
| | 3 6 | 09:45 | 11:15 | WH2603 |
| Harbin — Beijing | 1 2 3 4 5 | 10:05 | 11:35 | CJ6164 |
| | 2 3 4 5 6 | 09:30 | 11:00 | CJ6162 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 08:30 | 10:15 | CA1603 |
| | 2 | 14:30 | 16:15 | G8612 |
| | 2 | 15:10 | 16:55 | XO9602 |
| | 3 | 12:45 | 14:25 | CJ6185 |
| | 3 | 17:55 | 19:40 | CJ6179 |
| | 4 | 11:15 | 12:55 | X2164 |
| | 4 | 14:15 | 15:55 | CJ6187 |
| | 5 | 07:25 | 09:05 | CJ6163 |
| | 5 | 08:05 | 09:45 | CJ6961 |
| | 6 | 15:20 | 17:10 | SZ4624 |
| | 6 | 09:00 | 10:30 | CJ6575 |
| | 7 | 17:40 | 19:20 | CJ6171 |
| | 7 | 12:40 | 14:30 | SZ4644 |
| | 7 | 14:55 | 16:35 | X2168 |
| | 1 3 | 12:50 | 14:35 | 3U602 |
| | 1 4 | 11:05 | 12:45 | CA1604 |
| | 1 5 | 09:05 | 10:45 | CJ6175 |
| | 2 7 | 09:05 | 10:55 | CJ6165 |
| Guangzhou — Harbin | 1 4 | 07:45 | 11:55 | CZ3603 |
| | 2 3 5 6 | 10:05 | 14:05 | SZ4631 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 12:15 | 16:00 | CJ6362 |
| | 1 4 | 12:55 | 17:05 | CZ3604 |
| Harbin — Guangzhou | 2 3 5 6 | 12:35 | 17:00 | SZ4632 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 12:15 | 16:15 | CJ6361 |
| | 2 | 15:05 | 21:45 | CJ6380 |
| Shenzhen — Harbin | 1 5 | 15:15 | 20:45 | CJ6372 |
| | 4 6 7 | 14:20 | 20:00 | CJ6366 |
| | 2 | 08:20 | 14:15 | CJ6379 |
| Harbin — Shenzhen | 1 5 | 08:45 | 14:25 | CJ6371 |
| | 4 6 7 | 07:40 | 13:35 | CJ6365 |
| | 3 | 09:10 | 11:55 | SZ4617 |
| Xi'an — Harbin | 4 | 17:05 | 20:55 | CJ6464 |
| | 5 | 07:00 | 09:40 | WH2609 |
| | 3 6 | 07:20 | 11:15 | WH2603 |
| Harbin — Xi'an | 3 | 15:00 | 18:10 | SZ4618 |
| | 4 | 08:10 | 12:00 | CJ6463 |
| | 5 | 17:25 | 20:20 | WH2610 |
| | 3 6 | 12:00 | 16:30 | WH2604 |

(Valid October 1994)

Flights to and from Qiqihar

| Route | Days of Week | Dep. | Arr. | Flight No. |
|---------------------|--------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Beijing — Qiqihar | 1 5 | 11:30 | 13:15 | CJ6178 |
| Qiqihar — Beijing | 1 5 | 14:15 | 16:00 | CJ6177 |
| Guangzhou — Qiqihar | 5 | 15:30 | 19:40 | CJ6370 |
| Qiqihar — Guangzhou | 5 | 10:05 | 14:30 | CJ6369 |
| Harbin — Qiqihar | 5 | 08:40 | 09:25 | CJ6679 |
| | 3 7 | 09:00 | 09:50 | CJ6673 |
| Qiqihar — Harbin | 5 | 20:30 | 21:15 | CJ6680 |
| | 3 7 | 18:20 | 19:10 | CJ6674 |
| Hehei — Qiqihar | 2 4 7 | 09:30 | 10:45 | CJ6671 |
| Qiqihar — Hehei | 2 4 7 | 11:20 | 12:30 | CJ6672 |

(Valid October 1994)

Flights to and from Xi'an (1)

| Route | Day of Week | Dep. | Arr. | Flight No. |
|-------------------|---------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Beijing — Xi'an | 3 | 13:20 | 15:05 | SF127 |
| | 5 | 15:40 | 17:20 | WH2110 |
| | 7 | 14:20 | 16:05 | SF129 |
| | 2 5 | 07:55 | 09:45 | X2103 |
| | 2 6 | 11:15 | 12:55 | SF123 |
| | 2 6 | 15:00 | 16:45 | WH2104 |
| | 3 6 | 14:45 | 16:30 | WH2604 |
| | 4 7 | 15:45 | 17:30 | WH2122 |
| | 1 2 4 7 | 15:35 | 17:15 | CA1235 |
| | 1 3 4 6 7 | 10:55 | 12:40 | WH2124 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 07:35 | 09:10 | CA1215 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 14:05 | 15:45 | CA1201 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 16:20 | 18:05 | WH2102 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 17:00 | 18:45 | WH2108 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 17:25 | 19:00 | CA1245 |
| Xi'an — Beijing | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 20:45 | 22:30 | WH2106 |
| | 5 | 07:10 | 08:40 | WH2109 |
| | 2 5 | 18:55 | 20:45 | X2104 |
| | 2 6 | 13:35 | 15:05 | SF124 |
| | 2 6 | 07:00 | 08:30 | WH2103 |
| | 3 6 | 07:20 | 08:50 | WH2603 |
| | 4 7 | 07:00 | 08:40 | WH2121 |
| | 1 3 4 6 7 | 08:30 | 10:05 | WH2123 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 16:35 | 18:10 | CA1202 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 06:50 | 08:20 | WH2101 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 14:40 | 16:05 | WH2107 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 19:30 | 21:05 | CA1246 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 18:25 | 19:55 | WH2105 |
| Guangzhou — Xi'an | 1 | 16:40 | 19:09 | WH2368 |
| | 2 | 15:40 | 17:50 | WH2324 |
| | 3 | 15:55 | 18:25 | WH2366 |
| | 3 | 19:25 | 21:50 | WH2330 |
| | 3 6 | 17:30 | 20:00 | WH2322 |
| | 1 3 5 7 | 14:40 | 17:00 | CZ3201 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 10:25 | 12:45 | WH2306 |
| Xi'an — Guangzhou | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 18:40 | 21:05 | WH2304 |
| | 1 | 07:25 | 09:40 | WH2367 |
| | 2 | 06:55 | 09:10 | WH2323 |
| | 3 | 12:20 | 15:05 | WH2365 |
| | 3 | 08:35 | 10:45 | WH2329 |
| | 3 6 | 07:05 | 09:20 | WH2321 |
| | 1 3 5 7 | 17:50 | 20:20 | CZ3202 |
| Hong Kong — Xi'an | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 07:15 | 09:35 | WH2305 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 07:55 | 10:25 | WH2303 |
| Xi'an — Hong Kong | 2 4 6 7 | 17:35 | 19:50 | CZ322 |
| Nagoya — Xi'an | 2 4 6 7 | 13:50 | 16:25 | CZ321 |
| | 2 5 | 15:30 | 18:30 | MU294 |
| Xi'an — Nagoya | 4 7 | 15:30 | 20:00 | MU292 |
| | 2 5 | 08:05 | 14:15 | MU293 |

Flights to and from Xi'an (2)

| Route | Day of Week | Dep. | Arr. | Flight No. |
|------------------|---------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Shanghai — Xi'an | 3 | 10:05 | 12:15 | WH2522 |
| | 1 5 | 15:15 | 17:25 | WH2510 |
| | 2 6 | 18:40 | 21:00 | WH2504 |
| | 4 7 | 17:55 | 20:00 | MU292 |
| | 2 4 6 | 10:05 | 12:10 | SF203 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 18:25 | 20:35 | WH2502 |
| Xi'an — Shanghai | 3 | 07:25 | 09:15 | WH2521 |
| | 3 | 16:00 | 17:40 | SF206 |
| | 7 | 16:55 | 18:50 | SF208 |
| | 1 5 | 07:05 | 09:00 | WH2509 |
| | 2 5 | 08:05 | 10:05 | WH293 |
| | 2 6 | 08:45 | 10:40 | WH2503 |
| | 2 4 6 | 13:05 | 14:55 | SF204 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 15:02 | 17:10 | WH2501 |
| Shenzhen — Xi'an | 4 | 18:55 | 21:25 | WH2354 |
| | 3 7 | 16:10 | 18:35 | CZ3251 |
| | 1 2 5 7 | 11:40 | 14:00 | WH2326 |
| | 4 | 08:15 | 10:35 | WH2353 |
| Xi'an — Shenzhen | 3 7 | 19:15 | 21:40 | CZ3252 |
| | 1 2 5 7 | 08:15 | 10:35 | WH2325 |

(Valid October 1994)

Flights to and from Lhasa

| Route | Days of Week | Dep. | Arr. | Flight No. |
|-------------------|---------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Lhasa — Beijing | 7 | 09:50 | 14:15 | SZ4111 |
| Chengdu — Lhasa | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 07:00 | 09:00 | SZ4403 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 06:50 | 08:50 | SZ4401 |
| Lhasa — Chengdu | 7 | 09:50 | 11:30 | SZ4111 |
| | 2 6 | 14:20 | 16:00 | SZ4444 |
| | 1 3 4 5 | 09:50 | 11:40 | SZ4404 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 09:40 | 11:20 | SZ4402 |
| Chongqing — Lhasa | 2 5 | 07:00 | 09:30 | SZ4419 |
| Lhasa — Chongqing | 2 5 | 10:20 | 12:30 | SZ4420 |
| Kathmandu — Lhasa | 2 6 | 10:15 | 13:30 | SZ408 |
| Lhasa — Kathmandu | 2 6 | 10:20 | 09:15 | SZ407 |

(Valid October 1994)

Train Schedules Beijing - Harbin

| 137 F.T. | 17 Exp. | Train Station | No. | 18 Exp. | 138 F.T. |
|-------------|------------|------------------|-----|------------|-------------|
| 08:14 | 15:50 | Beijing | | 13:10 | 04:12 |
| 10:29 | — | Tianjin | | — | 02:30 |
| 14:51 | 20:06 | Shanhaiguan | | 09:06 | 21:58 |
| — | — | Shenyang | | — | — |
| 21:07 | 01:22 | Shenyang North | | 03:53 | 15:38 |
| 01:40 | 05:12 | Changchun | | 00:01 | 10:51 |
| 05:48 | 08:40 | Harbin | | 20:40 | 06:42 |
| 06:00 | 08:52 | Qiqihar | | | |

Exp.—Express

F.T. —Fast through passenger train

Train Schedules Nanjing - Shanghai

| Tour 15 | Tour 1 | Train Station | No. | Tour 2 | Tour 16 |
|------------|-----------|------------------|-----|-----------|------------|
| 09:40 | 08:09 | Nanjing West | | 17:42 | 21:26 |
| 09:57 | 08:26 | Nanjing | | 17:32 | 21:16 |
| 11:03 | — | Zhenjiang | | — | 20:09 |
| 12:54 | 10:50 | Wuxi | | 15:18 | 18:31 |
| 14:41 | 12:20 | Shanghai | | 13:40 | 16:30 |

Flights to and from Nanjing

| Route | Day of Week | Dep. | Arr. | Flight No. |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Beijing — Nanjing | 2 | 13:20 | 15:10 | GP7173 |
| | 6 | 14:55 | 16:35 | MU5176 |
| | 1 5 | 14:10 | 15:45 | CA1563 |
| | 4 7 | 11:15 | 12:50 | SF156 |
| | 6 7 | 07:25 | 09:15 | GP7161 |
| | 1 2 4 5 | 10:55 | 12:35 | MU5110 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 07:30 | 09:05 | CA1507 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 12:25 | 14:00 | CA1537 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 17:35 | 19:10 | CA1503 |
| | 2 | 16:05 | 18:00 | GP7174 |
| Nanjing — Beijing | 6 | 08:10 | 10:00 | MU5109 |
| | 4 7 | 13:55 | 15:35 | SF155 |
| | 6 7 | 09:55 | 11:55 | GP7162 |
| | 1 2 4 5 | 08:20 | 10:00 | MU5109 |
| | 1 2 4 7 | 20:10 | 21:45 | CA1566 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 10:00 | 11:35 | CA1508 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 15:00 | 16:40 | CA1538 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 19:50 | 21:25 | CA1504 |
| | 4 | 13:30 | 15:30 | GP7377 |
| | 5 | 15:00 | 17:00 | GP7361 |
| Guangzhou — Nanjing | 7 | 15:40 | 17:55 | MU5330 |
| | 7 | 16:20 | 18:20 | GP7369 |
| | 1 3 | 16:15 | 18:25 | MU5338 |
| | 1 4 | 11:00 | 13:00 | GP7351 |
| | 2 7 | 09:40 | 11:30 | CZ3513 |
| | 1 3 5 | 10:45 | 12:40 | SF356 |
| | 2 4 5 | 15:00 | 17:10 | MU5322 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 17:55 | 19:40 | CZ3507 |
| | 4 | 16:20 | 18:20 | GP7378 |
| | 5 | 17:50 | 19:50 | GP7362 |
| Nanjing — Guangzhou | 7 | 19:00 | 21:00 | GP7370 |
| | 1 4 | 13:45 | 15:50 | GP7352 |
| | 2 7 | 12:30 | 14:20 | CZ3514 |
| | 1 3 5 | 13:35 | 15:30 | SF355 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 7 | 07:50 | 10:05 | MU5337 |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 20:30 | 22:25 | CZ3508 |
| | 6 | 08:40 | 11:15 | CJ6813 |
| | 6 | 17:05 | 19:30 | CJ6814 |
| | 5 | 12:25 | 13:10 | MU5523 |
| | 2 7 | 12:35 | 13:20 | MU5523 |
| Shanghai — Nanjing | 7 | 21:20 | 22:00 | MU5524 |
| | 2 5 | 20:15 | 20:55 | MU5524 |
| | 1 6 | 14:20 | 16:20 | 4C817 |
| Shenzhen — Nanjing | 4 7 | 17:15 | 19:50 | CJ6332 |
| | 2 5 7 | 08:50 | 10:55 | CZ3559 |
| | 1 2 4 5 7 | 18:40 | 20:55 | MU5332 |
| | 1 6 | 17:10 | 19:10 | 4C818 |
| Nanjing — Shenzhen | 4 7 | 14:10 | 16:25 | CJ6331 |
| | 2 5 7 | 11:55 | 14:00 | CZ3560 |
| | 1 2 4 5 7 | 15:30 | 17:50 | MU5331 |

(Valid October 1994)

Average Climatic Conditions in Guangdong, Heilongjiang, Jiangsu, Shaanxi and Tibet

| | | | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | April | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|--------------|-----------|------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|
| Guangdong | Guangzhou | Temperature (°C) | 13.3 | 14.4 | 17.9 | 21.9 | 25.6 | 27.2 | 28.4 | 28.1 | 26.9 | 23.7 | 19.4 | 15.2 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 36.9 | 54.5 | 80.7 | 175.0 | 293.8 | 287.8 | 212.7 | 232.5 | 189.3 | 69.2 | 37.0 | 24.7 |
| Heilongjiang | Harbin | Temperature (°C) | -19.4 | -15.3 | -4.9 | 6.2 | 14.3 | 19.8 | 22.8 | 21.1 | 14.4 | 5.7 | -5.8 | -15.7 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 3.9 | 4.7 | 11.7 | 22.0 | 36.0 | 75.8 | 169.2 | 100.4 | 70.7 | 27.3 | 6.9 | 5.1 |
| | Qiqihar | Temperature (°C) | -19.5 | -15.4 | -5.3 | 5.4 | 14.1 | 20.2 | 22.8 | 20.9 | 14.0 | 4.7 | -7.2 | -16.5 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 2.2 | 1.8 | 5.6 | 13.4 | 31.0 | 64.0 | 126.5 | 98.7 | 49.4 | 16.1 | 3.5 | 3.4 |
| Jiangsu | Nanjing | Temperature (°C) | 2.0 | 3.8 | 8.4 | 14.8 | 19.9 | 24.5 | 28.0 | 27.8 | 22.7 | 16.9 | 10.5 | 4.4 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 30.9 | 50.1 | 72.7 | 93.7 | 100.2 | 167.4 | 183.6 | 113.3 | 95.9 | 46.1 | 48.0 | 29.4 |
| | Yangzhou | Temperature (°C) | 1.6 | 3.2 | 7.9 | 14.1 | 19.2 | 24.0 | 27.7 | 27.3 | 22.4 | 16.5 | 10.2 | 4.1 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 30.4 | 40.9 | 66.3 | 84.8 | 85.4 | 152.3 | 206.2 | 135.0 | 128.2 | 45.1 | 42.9 | 28.7 |
| | Zhenjiang | Temperature (°C) | 2.4 | 3.8 | 8.2 | 14.4 | 19.6 | 24.2 | 28.0 | 27.6 | 22.9 | 17.3 | 11.4 | 5.1 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 7.8 | 8.8 | 10.4 | 11.9 | 12.1 | 10.7 | 13.1 | 11.8 | 10.7 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 6.9 |
| Shaanxi | Xi'an | Temperature (°C) | -1.0 | 2.1 | 8.1 | 14.1 | 19.1 | 25.2 | 26.6 | 25.5 | 19.4 | 13.7 | 6.6 | 0.7 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 7.6 | 10.6 | 24.6 | 52.0 | 63.2 | 52.2 | 99.4 | 71.7 | 98.3 | 62.4 | 31.5 | 6.7 |
| Tibet | Lhasa | Temperature (°C) | -2.3 | 1.1 | 4.5 | 8.3 | 12.3 | 15.4 | 15.4 | 14.3 | 12.7 | 8.2 | 2.3 | -1.7 |
| | | Rainfall (mm) | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 5.4 | 25.4 | 77.1 | 129.5 | 138.7 | 56.3 | 7.9 | 1.6 | 0.5 |

Train Schedules Nanjing West - Shanghai

| 339 O. | 337 O. | 335 O. | 329 O. | 327 O. | 325 O. | 211 F.T. | Train Station | No. No. | 212 F.T. | 326 O. | 328 O. | 330 O. | 336 O. | 338 O. | 340 O. |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 11:04 | 07:12 | 15:44 | 12:55 | | 18:24 | Nanjing West | | 10:34 | | 07:54 | 01:24 | 17:10 | 19:23 | |
| | 11:20 | 07:34 | 16:03 | 13:16 | 17:19 | 18:46 | Nanjing | | 10:24 | 12:14 | 07:44 | 01:14 | 17:00 | 19:13 | |
| 13:56 | 12:29 | 08:42 | 17:15 | 14:13 | 18:23 | 19:44 | Zhenjiang | | 09:18 | 11:09 | 06:19 | 00:03 | 15:44 | 17:51 | 12:06 |
| 15:20 | 14:01 | 09:52 | 18:36 | 15:33 | 19:44 | 20:56 | Changzhou | | 08:10 | 10:00 | 05:11 | 23:04 | 14:14 | 16:40 | 10:48 |
| 16:03 | 14:50 | 10:41 | 19:30 | 16:16 | 20:28 | 21:39 | Wuxi | | 07:27 | 09:12 | 04:33 | 22:26 | 13:19 | 15:40 | 10:11 |
| 16:42 | | 11:30 | 20:10 | 17:11 | 21:09 | 22:20 | Suzhou | | 06:46 | 08:24 | 03:52 | 21:31 | 12:22 | | 09:31 |
| - | | | - | - | - | - | Shanghai West | | - | - | - | - | | | - |
| 18:04 | | | 21:26 | 18:33 | 22:23 | 23:28 | Shanghai | | 05:28 | 07:00 | 02:35 | 19:55 | | | 08:14 |
| | | | | | | To Guangzhou | | | From Guangzhou | | | | | | |

F.T. - Fast through passenger train

O. - Ordinary passenger train

(Continued from page 62)

The Inauguration of Tibet's Grandest Chörten — The 10th Panchen Lama's Final Resting Place

remains are preserved in the chörten, or, in some cases, the ashes, hair or objects used by the deceased are placed inside it. Chörtens are classified according to the materials used: gold, silver, copper, wood and mud. The chörten in which the preserved body of the 10th Panchen Lama rests is covered in gold foil, and is the grandest chörten in all of Tibet.

Construction of the memorial hall for the 10th Panchen Lama started in September 1990 and lasted for three years and eight months. Its name, Drashi Namgyal, means the "Memorial Hall for Sages from Heaven, Earth and Hell".

The hall covers an area of 253 square metres. The chörten, which stands 11.5 metres tall, is not only covered in gold but is also imbedded with diamonds, opals, agate, turquoise, red corals, green jade,

meteorites, amber and other precious stones. The entire chörten is decorated with 20,000 gems arranged in 1,018 clusters. The most precious stones, including 179 opals and agate beads as well as the largest and most colourful turquoise and the largest ambers, decorate the front of the chörten. The two sides contain the next-best gems arranged in 212 clusters on each side, and on the back are another 232 clusters of precious stones. Even the two ribbons attached to the chörten are studded with stones.

The three-tiered interior of the chörten is also grandly laid out. The holy body of the late Panchen Lama sits inside the sandalwood shrine in the centre of the chörten, and around him are the clothing, religious objects, *tangka* paintings, Buddhist portraits and scriptures he used in his lifetime.

The walls of the memorial hall itself are decorated with elaborately painted murals, either depicting the deities of Tantric Buddhism or eulogizing the meritorious deeds of famous monks of the various sects of Tibetan Buddhism. There are also images of both the Ninth and 10th Panchen Lamas. All the beams and pillars inside the hall are inscribed with colourful carvings and engravings.

The incredible amount of money, effort and time spent on building this elaborate and beautiful final resting place for the Panchen Lama shows the love and reverence the people of Tibet have for those who have reached such levels of spiritual attainment. In their eyes, no amount of money would be too much.

Translated by Ling Yuan

NEWS

New Beijing-Shenyang Sleeper Train

A new first-class, non-stop train consisting only of sleeper carriages has begun service between Beijing and Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning Province. Equipped with air conditioning and consisting of two soft-sleeper and 16 hard-sleeper carriages, the No. 53/54 express is the first of its kind in China and will be of great use on this line, one of the busiest in the country.

Liao Figures Identified

Pictures on a Liao-dynasty (916-1125) pagoda found in 1989 have recently been identified as a Liao ruler and his wife. The gilded, scale-model pagoda was discovered in a Buddhist temple in the city of Chifeng in Inner Mongolia. The figures on the pagoda were all beautifully dressed, including the ruler and his wife, whose costumes indicated that they were about to take part in a religious ceremony.

Art Expo in Guangzhou

Art lovers should mark the dates of November 26-30 on their calendars, as that is when the 1994 China Art Exposition will be held in Guangzhou. The expo is one of the world's biggest art shows and will be attended by major art institutes, galleries and well-known mainland artists. On display in the 8,400-square-metre hall, which will be inside the Guangzhou Import and Export Commodities Fair, will be a huge collection of oil paintings, ink paintings, sculptures, folk art and much more.

Forest Parks in Shaanxi

Shaanxi Province has discovered a new way to attract tourists by opening a number of forest parks. So far 10 forest parks have been set up with funds from local people and a total of 21 have been given provincial approval. The forest parks here are special in that they lie on the demarcation line separating China's temperate and subtropical zones.

New Cave Near Guilin

An especially large karst cave has recently been discovered 159 kilometres from Guilin, the well-known scenic city in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The cave, located in Guanyang County, is 10 metres high, an astonishing 25 kilometres in length and has a river running through it. It contains a wide variety of stalactites and stalagmites, and should be open to tourists sometime in July of this year.

Yi Minority Torch Festival

Those interested in minority festivals might want to make their way to southern Sichuan Province for the Yi people's grand Torch Festival, this year officially called the '94 China International Torch Festival of the Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture. Held from August 1-4 in the city of Xichang, the capital of the Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, the festival will be a good opportunity to observe the customs of the Yi nationality. The torch festival, whose purpose is to pray for a good harvest, has been celebrated by the Yi for thousands of years.

101 Wei Tombs Discovered

While doing preparatory work for the Hebei section of the future Beijing-Shenzhen expressway, an archaeological survey team discovered 101 brick tombs thought to be from the Wei Dynasty (220-265). The tombs were found in the ancient city of Yecheng (in present-day Linzhang County in the far south of Hebei) which was the capital of six dynasties, including the Wei, from 213 to 580. The find is of great importance because only one other Wei-dynasty tomb has ever been found. Archaeologists are also hoping the discovery will lead them to the tomb of Cao Cao, the founder of the Wei Dynasty and a famous figure in Chinese history. Ancient records say that Cao Cao was buried somewhere in the western suburbs of Yecheng, a city with a history dating back to 770 B.C. Besides the tombs, the remains of palaces, kilns, roads, bridges, wells and waterways were also found at the site, which is now under State protection.

Three Kingdoms Palace

The glory of the Three Kingdoms period (220-280) of Chinese history has been recreated in a new tourist site in Anhui Province's northern city of Bozhou. Built in the architectural style of the Han Dynasty, the Three Kingdoms Sightseeing Palace boasts 20 scenic spots, a main building and several towers. The relatively unknown city of Bozhou was chosen as the site for the palace because it was the hometown of two famous figures from the Three Kingdoms period — the statesman Cao Cao and a medical researcher named Hua Tuo.

Dance Festival in July

This July, Beijing will be the location of the '94 Beijing International Dance Institutes Dance Festival, an annual event sponsored by the Beijing Dance Academy, though in past years the event has been held outside of China. During the festival there will be a dance contest, a photo exhibit, an evening of dance, a dance drama and a symposium on dance theory.

Relics Show in Beijing

Some two million relics are now on display in Beijing as part of the country's China Heritage '94 programme. The Cultural Relics Show is divided into three locations: the Beijing Art Museum, the Capital Museum and the Beijing Ancient Coins Exhibition Hall.

New Flights to Urümqi

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has recently opened up three new air routes that will pass through the capital city of Urümqi. The three routes, each of which will have one flight per week, go from Tianjin-Urümqi-Novosibirsk-Moscow, Urümqi to Islamabad, and Urümqi-Chongqing-Hong Kong.

Three Mountain Events Coming Up

Three of China's most famous mountains are sponsoring various types of activities over the next several months. The Fifth Wutai Mountain Tourism Month has been set for July 25 to August 25 of this year on Shanxi Province's Wutai Mountain. The month's activities will be divided into four different types: sightseeing tours, Buddhist activities, trade talks and cultural events.

Next, the 1994 Taishan Mountain Cultural Tour will take place in September in Shandong Province, as part of the Eighth International Taishan Mountain Climbing Festival. Some of the activities planned for the cultural tour are a look at folk wedding customs, an exhibition on Taishan's folk customs, international martial arts demonstrations, various performances, art exhibitions and much more.

Lastly, from September 4 to 13, Anhui Province's beautiful Jiuhua Mountain will be organizing activities in honour of Ksitigarba Kim, a monk who lived here for 75 years. The ceremony is in commemoration of his death, which occurred on the mountain 1,200 years ago. The memorial ceremony and unveiling of a statue of Ksitigarba Kim will be held in the morning of September 5.

Summer Hotel Package in Shanghai

Shanghai's Sheraton Hua Ting Hotel has a special summer package for visitors coming to the city between June 1 and August 31 of this year. Guests who stay at the hotel for a minimum of three consecutive nights will be charged just US\$99 per night for single or double occupancy. This package includes one free breakfast, free shuttle bus service, free use of the hotel's swimming pool and gym and other amenities. For reservations, phone (86-21) 439-1000, ext. 2560/2561.



Major Hotels in Guangdong, Heilongjiang, Jiangsu and Shaanxi Provinces

Guangzhou, Guangdong

Bai Yun Hotel

白雲賓館

367 Huanshi Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510060

Tel: 3333989 Telex: 44327 BYHTY CN Fax: 3336498

700 rooms and suites Rates: Single US\$308, double US\$478-638 (all + 15%)

Located 10 min from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, bar, ballroom, health centre, beauty salon, sauna, massage, shopping arcade

Central Hotel

中央酒店

33 Jichang Road, Sanyuanli, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510015

Tel: 6678331 Telex: 44664 GLCSO CN Fax: 6677014

Opened 28 September 1986

234 rooms and suites

Only minutes from airport and railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business offices, conference centre, swimming pool, gym, billiard room, karaoke, beauty parlour, shopping arcade

China Hotel

中國大酒店

Liuhsa Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510015

Tel: 86-20-6666888 Telex: 44888 CHLGZ CN Fax: 86-20-6677014

Opened June 1984

1,017 rooms Rate: Suite US\$148 (+ 20%)

Located in city centre, 6 km from airport, 500 metres from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, ballroom, function rooms, tennis courts, swimming pool, shopping arcade, bowling centre, billiard room, health club, beauty salon, clinic

GITIC Riverside Hotel

廣信江灣大酒店

298 Yanjiang Road Central, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510100

Tel: 3839888 Telex: 440818 GXRSH CN Fax: 3814448

331 rooms and suites Rates: Double US\$80-118, suite US\$198-238 (all + 20%)

Located 15 min from airport and railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, karaoke, gym, sauna, massage, tennis courts, swimming pool, beauty salon

Dong Fang Hotel

東方賓館



120 Liuhsa Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510016

Tel: (86-20) 6669900 Telex: 44439 GZDFH CN

Fax: 6662775

GM: Chen Ru Feng

Opened 1961

1,300 rooms and suites Rates: Standard double US\$110

Located 6 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb¥10

Facilities: Chinese, Japanese, French and American restaurants, business centre, convention centre, recreation centre, amusement park, tennis courts, sauna, swimming pool, bowling, clinic

Garden Hotel

花園酒店

368 Huanshi Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510064

Tel: (86-20) 3338989 Telex: 44788 GDHTL CN Fax: (86-20) 3350467 3350706

GM: Lawrence Boey

Opened 28 August 1985

1,112 rooms and 44 suites Rates: US\$120-125

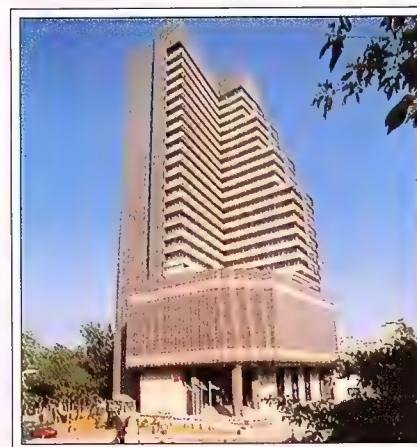
Located 9 km from airport, 4.5 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥ 25; railway station Rmb ¥ 12

Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, swimming pool, tennis courts, beauty salon, disco, billiard room, clinic, babysitting service

Holiday Inn City Centre Guangzhou

廣州文化假日酒店



Huanshi Dong, Overseas Chinese Village, 28

Guangming Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510060

Tel: 7766999 Telex: 441045 HICCG CN Fax: 7753126

Opened March 1991

391 rooms and 40 suites

Located 12 km/20 min from airport, 4 km/10 min from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, exhibition hall, function rooms, cinema, disco, bar, swimming pool, health club with gym, beauty salon

Hotel Equatorial Guangzhou

廣州貴都酒店

931 Renmin Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong

Tel: 6672888 Telex: 441168 EQUAT CN Fax: 6672582, 6672583

Opened July 1989

310 rooms and suites

Located 15 minutes from airport, 5 minutes from railway station

Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, banquet and conference rooms, business and convention centre, swimming pool, health centre, karaoke, disco, babysitting service, medical service

Hotel Landmark Canton

華廈大酒店

8 Qiaoguang Road, Haizhu Square, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510115

Tel: (86-20) 3355988 Telex: 441288 HLC CN Fax: (86-20) 3336197

GM: David Ng

Opened 26 February 1991

730 rooms and 51 suites Rates: Single/double US\$95 Located 10 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport US\$4; railway station US\$2 Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, food street, banquet hall, business centre, karaoke, bar, beauty salon, indoor swimming pool, gym, clinic

Liuhsa Hotel

流花賓館

194 Huanshi Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510017

Tel: 20-6668800 Telex: 44298 GZHH CN Fax: 20-6667828

GM: Lin Jin Hai

Opened 14 October 1972

715 rooms and 45 suites Rates: US\$45

Located 6 km from airport

Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb¥15

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, multi-purpose conference centre, coffee shop, beauty salon, karaoke

Nanhu Hotel

南湖賓館

Tonghe, Shahe, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510515

Tel: 7706706 Telex: 44511 NANHU CN Fax: 7706160

GM: Liang Hui

Opened April 1981

370 rooms Rates: US\$35

Located in the northeastern suburbs, 15 km from airport, 12 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥ 60; railway station Rmb ¥ 50

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference rooms, amusement park, boats, horses, shooting range, villas, swimming pool, dance hall, shopping arcade, business facilities

Ocean Hotel

海洋賓館

412 Huanshi Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510061

Tel: 7765988 Telex: 44638 GOHOL CN Fax: 7765475

GM: Ma Rong

200 rooms and suites Rate: Double US\$70-74, suite: US\$115

Facilities: Chinese and western restaurants, shopping arcade, dance hall, disco, karaoke, gym, sauna, massage, beauty salon

Oriental Silk Hotel

東方絲綢大廈

752, Dongfeng Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510080

Tel: 7762888 Telex: 441181 OSH CN Fax: 7750796

Opened 18 March 1990

262 rooms

Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, conference hall, function and banquet rooms, coffee shop, silk shopping centre, karaoke, beauty salon, billiard room, health centre

Overseas Chinese Hotel (Guangzhou)

廣州華僑酒店

90 Zhanqian Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510010

Tel: 6663488 Telex: 441178 OCHTL CN Fax: 6663230

Opened 1957

400 rooms and suites

Located 20 min from airport, 0.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Restaurants, conference centre, business centre, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, beauty salon, clinic, billiard room, ballroom

White Swan Hotel

白天鵝賓館



1 Southern Street, Shamian Island, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510133
Tel: 8886968 Telex: 44688 WSH CN
Fax: (86-20) 861188
GM: Yang Xiao Peng
Opened 6 February 1983
744 rooms and 81 suites Rates: US\$140
Located 20 km from airport, 10 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, conference rooms, bar, coffee shop, nightclub, karaoke, swimming pools, health centre, tennis and squash courts, golf course, sauna, steambath, jacuzzi and massage room, beauty salon

Zhaoqing, Guangdong

Huaqiao Hotel
華僑大廈
90 Tianning Road North, Zhaoqing, Guangdong 526040
Tel: 232952 Telex: 44629 HQHZO CN
Fax: 231197, 233637
Opened December 1982
242 rooms
Located in the centre of Zhaoqing, 120 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, health club, bar, dance hall, billiard room, karaoke

Xingyan Hotel
星岩賓館
Xi Niu Gang, Qixing Crag, Zhaoqing, Guangdong, 526020
Tel: 226688, 224112, (direct) 234121
Opened May 1961
155 rooms
Located in the scenic area of Qixing Crag, 120 km from airport, 5.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Shops, coffee shop, dance hall

Yunfu Hotel
雲浮大酒店
Xingyun Road, Yunfu, Zhaoqing, Guangdong 527300
Tel: 822779, 823901, (direct) 828538 Fax: 828528
120 rooms
Located in the centre of Yunfu, 180 km from airport, 64 km from railway station
Facilities: Shops, coffee shop, dance hall

Nanhai, Guangdong

Xiqiao Hill Hotel
西樵山大酒店
Baiyundong, Mt. Xiqiao, Nanhai, Guangdong
Tel: (0757) 686799 Fax: 656545
Opened 30 July 1987
150 rooms
Located 28 km from airport, 20 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, exhibition hall, business centre, shopping arcade, dance hall, swimming pool, tennis court, cinema

Harbin, Heilongjiang

Beifang Mansion
北方大廈
120 Huayuan Street, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 3643061
Opened 1959
380 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre, 40 km from airport, 500 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, banquet hall, beauty salon, grand theatre (1,000 seats)

Beiyuan Hotel
北苑飯店
76 Hongjun Street, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 3638761, 3643146
Opened September 1980
264 rooms
Located opposite the railway station, 40 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, revolving restaurants, dance hall, beauty salon, bar, shopping arcade

Harbin International Hotel

哈爾濱國際飯店



124 Dazhi Street, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 3641441 Telex: 87081 GUOLU CN
Fax: (0451) 325651
Opened 1949
144 rooms
Located in the city centre, 40 km from airport, 500 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, gym, bar, karaoke, massage

Harbin Modern Hotel

馬迭爾賓館
129 Zhongyang Avenue, Daoli, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150010
Tel: 4615846 Telex: 87075 Fax: 414997
Opened 1913
144 rooms
Located in the city centre, 39 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, beauty salon, massage, dance hall, bar, coffee shop

Harbin Overseas Chinese Hotel

哈爾濱華僑飯店
52 Hongjun Road, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 3641266 Fax: 323429
Opened 1956
387 rooms
Located 40 km from airport
Facilities: Conference room, business centre, beauty salon, clinic, gym, billiard room, bar, coffee shop

Milky Way (Yinhe) Hotel

銀河賓館
230 Zhongshan Road, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 2620707 Telex: 87023 HVMX CN
Fax: 228375
320 rooms
Located 40 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Trade hall, theatre, gym, shop, bar

Peace Hotel

和平村賓館
109 Zhongshan Road, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150001
Tel: 2620101
270 rooms
Located 40 km from airport, 500 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, conference hall, dance hall, massage, beauty salon

Swan Hotel

天鵝飯店
73 Zhongshan Road, Nangang, Harbin, Heilongjiang 150036
Tel: 2620201 Telex: 87080 TIANE CN
Fax: (0451) 224895
Opened 1984
250 rooms
Located 40 km from airport, 6 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference hall, bars, shopping arcade, beauty salon, karaoke, multi-function rooms, tennis court, dance hall

Qiqihar, Heilongjiang

Hecheng Hotel

鶴城賓館
4 Wenhua Street, Qiqihar, Heilongjiang 161005
Tel: 472669 Telex: 87124 QHRGL CN
Opened 1987
83 rooms and suites

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, shopping arcade, disco, billiard room, beauty salon

Nenjiang Hotel

嫩江賓館
7 Fengheng Road, Longsha District, Qiqihar, Heilongjiang 161005
Tel: 472686
Opened 15 February 1985
120 rooms
Located 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Conference rooms, dance hall, billiard room, beauty salon

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Central Hotel

中心大酒店
75 Zhongshan Road, Nanjing, Jiangsu 210005
Tel: (86-25) 4400888, 4400666
Telex: (86-25) 4414194
GM: Tao Mingjian
Opened 1 August 1993
321 rooms and 10 suites Rates: US\$98-108 (+10%)
Located 9 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥29; railway station Rmb ¥26
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, meeting rooms, multi-function hall, cafe, shopping arcade, bowling, gym, sauna, massage, tennis courts, swimming pool, billiard room, disco, karaoke

Ding Shan Hotel

丁山賓館
90 Qahar Road, Nanjing, Jiangsu 210003
Tel: 8805223 8802888-5060
Telex: 34103 DSHNJ CN Fax: (025) 6636929
GM: Jin Jianping
Opened 1975
171 rooms and 20 suites Rates: US\$300
Located 30 km from airport, 14 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥40; railway station Rmb ¥20
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference room, business centre, shopping arcade, karaoke, clinic

Jinling Hotel

金陵飯店



Xinjiekou Square, Nanjing, Jiangsu 210005
Tel: (025) 4455888 Telex: 34110 JLHJ CN
Fax: (025) 7714695, 6643396
GM: Hu Yonghui
Opened 4 October 1983
818 rooms and 30 suites Rates: US\$120-160
Located 10 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, exhibition hall, bar, coffee shop, gym, billiard room, sauna, massage, swimming pool, beauty salon, clinic, shopping arcade

Nanjing Hotel

南京飯店

259 Zhongshan Road North, Nanjing, Jiangsu 210003
Tel: 6634121, 6639831 Telex: 34102 NKHNK CN
Fax: 306998
204 rooms and 10 suites
Located in the northwest, 4 km from city centre, 13.5 km from airport, 5.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, banquet halls, bars, business centre, convention rooms, billiard room, acupuncture and massage services

Shuangmenlou Guesthouse

雙門樓賓館

185 Huju Road North, Nanjing, Jiangsu 210003
Tel: 8805961, 8805965 Telex: 34118 SMLNJ CN
Fax: 8801421
200 rooms and 4 suites
Distances from city centre 5 km, airport 12 km, railway station 5 km
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurant, conference room, business centre, theatre, bar, coffee shop, ballroom, shopping arcade, beauty salon, massage, billiard room, clinic, babysitting service, facilities for the handicapped

Yangzhou, Jiangsu

Xi Yuan Grand Hotel

西園大酒店

1 Fengle Upper Street, Yangzhou, Jiangsu 225002
Tel: 0514-344888 Fax: 0514-233870
GM: Jin Lin
Opened 1958
266 rooms and 31 suites Rates: Standard US\$50
Located 100 km from airport, 16 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb¥300; railway station Rmb¥150
Facilities: Restaurants, conference centre, business centre, shopping arcade, tennis courts, indoor swimming pool, karaoke, ballroom, bowling, gym, sauna, beauty salon

Yanzhou Hotel

揚州賓館

5 Fengle Upper Road, Yangzhou, Jiangsu 225002
Tel: 42611-435, 454, 455 Telex: 34075 YZHTL CN
150 rooms and 6 suites
Facilities: Restaurants, banquet hall, shops, bar, swimming pool, art gallery

Xi'an, Shaanxi

Bell Tower Hotel

鐘樓飯店

Southwest of Bell Tower, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710001
Tel: 7279200 Telex: 70124 XABTH CN/70195 BTH CN
Fax: (029)18970/718767
305 rooms and 16 suites
Located 5 km from airport and railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, bar, coffee shop, disco, gym, shopping centre, facilities for handicapped persons, babysitting service

China Merchants Hotel

華商酒店

131 Heping Road, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710001
Tel: 7218988 Telex: 700269 CMH CN
Fax: (0292) 7218588
GM: Victor Yang
Opened 1 March 1990
150 rooms and suites Rates: US\$40
Located in city centre, 49 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb¥120; railway station Rmb¥7
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, music hall, disco, karaoke, massage

City Hotel

城市酒店

5 Nanda Street, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710002
Tel: 7219988 Fax: 7216688
GM: Chen Kangyi
Opened 22 June 1988
143 rooms and suites Rates: US\$52 (+10%)

Located 45 km from airport, 15 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb¥230; railway station Rmb¥60
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, bar, coffee shop, karaoke-dance hall, massage, beauty salon, shopping arcade

Concord Hotel

協和大酒店

28 Fenghao Road East, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710077
Tel: 742811 Telex: 70024 CHNHL CN
Fax: 742814
161 rooms and 6 suites
Located 10 km from city centre, 2 km from airport, 15 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, bar, ballroom, disco, karaoke, beauty salon, clinic, billiard room, tennis courts, massage, babysitting service, shopping centre, facilities for handicapped persons

Dynasty Hotel

秦都酒店

55 Huancheng Road North, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710082
Tel: (86-29) 7212718 Telex: 700233 DHX CN
Fax: (86-29) 7212728
GM: Steven Tan
Opened 12 July 1990
200 rooms and 34 suites Rates: US\$75
Located 45 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Korean restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, bar, gym, massage, sauna, beauty salon, karaoke, disco, shopping arcade

Hyatt Regency Xi'an

凱悅(阿房宮)飯店



158 Dongba Street, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710001
Tel: 7231234 Telex: 70048 AFPH CN
Fax: 7216799
GM: Paul Hugentobler
Opened July 1990
394 rooms Rates: Single/double US\$110-130, suite US\$200-1,000
Located 43 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb¥200; railway station Rmb¥10
Facilities: Restaurants, bar, gym, whirlpool, steam bath, sauna, massage, beauty salon, shopping arcade

Jianguo Hotel

建國飯店

20 Jinhua Road South, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710000
Tel: (86) 29-338888 Fax: (86) 29-335145
Opened 12 March 1989
710 rooms and suites
Located near the Xingqing Park, Xi'an Zoo and the Banpo Museum, 12km/25 min from airport, 7 km/10 min from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, bar, coffee shop, ballroom, beauty salon, indoor swimming pool, bicycle rental and the biggest tourism shopping mall in Xi'an

J Z Regency Hotel Xi'an

君爵國際酒店

15 Changle Middle Road, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710032
Tel/Fax: (29) 332-009
Opened 1992
293 rooms and 104 suites
Located 40 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese, Japanese, Korean barbecue restaurants, banquet rooms, business centre, commercial centre, shopping arcade, tennis courts, outdoor golf course, beauty salon, karaoke, nightclub

New World Hotel

新都大酒店

48 Lianhu Road, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710002
Tel: 7216868 Telex: 70156 XDHTL CN Fax: 7219754
501 rooms
Located 3 km from the city centre, 4 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, bar, disco, theatre, shopping arcade, karaoke, gym, tennis courts, swimming pool, billiard room, sauna, massage, babysitting service, facilities for handicapped persons

Shangri-La Garden Flower

香格里拉金花飯店

8 Changle Road West, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710032
Tel: (86-29) 3232981
Telex: 70155 SLX CN
Fax: (86-29) 3235477, 3235185
GM: Brian Leong
Opened 1 April 1985
435 rooms and 47 suites Rates: US\$90-110
Located 45 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb¥180; railway station Rmb¥20
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, bar, coffee shop, disco, karaoke, indoor swimming pool, gym, sauna, massage, beauty salon, clinic, babysitting service

Tang Cheng Hotel

唐城賓館

3 Lingyuan Road South, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710061
Tel: 7211164 Telex: 70013 TCH CN
Fax: (029)7211041
Opened 1987
395 rooms and 11 suites Rate: Standard US\$46, single US\$64, suite US\$92-382
Located 7 km from city centre and airport, 10 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, exhibition hall, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, ballroom, disco, karaoke, clinic, beauty salon, billiard room, massage, babysitting service

Wan Nian Hotel

萬年飯店

11 Changle Road Central, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710032
Tel: 3231932, 3232523 Telex: 70033 XWNG CN
Fax: 3235460
162 rooms and 4 suites
Located 6 km from the city centre, 12 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, bar, coffee shop, disco, shopping arcade, babysitting service

Xi'an Empress Hotel

西安皇后大酒店

45 Xingqing Road, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710084
Tel: 3232999 Fax: 3236988
Opened 1993
259 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese, Western, Japanese and Korean restaurants, business centre, coffee shop, shopping arcade, disco, billiard room, bowling

Xi'an Garden Hotel -- Tang Hua

唐華賓館

4 Yanyin Road, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710000
Tel: (029) 5261111 Telex: 70027 GAHTL CN
Fax: (029) 561988
GM: Kenichi Takashi
301 rooms and suites Rates: US\$110-250
Located 48 km from airport, 6 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport US\$20/person; railway station US\$3/person
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, banquet rooms, conference rooms, bar, shopping arcade, disco, sauna, beauty salon, clinic

Xi'an Lee Gardens Hotel

西安利園酒店

8 Laodong Road South, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710000
Tel: (29) 7243388
Opened August 1992
296 rooms and 10 suites
Located in the southwestern part of the city
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, bar, disco, coffee shop

Beijing Gongmei Group (formerly Beijing Arts and Crafts Corporation) is a comprehensive import and export holdings company. Our major business activity is dealing in arts and crafts items, however we also engage in scientific research, production management, education, publishing, and the processing of imported materials according to given designs. The group owns about 60 industrial and commercial enterprises, 21 joint-ventures and 1 overseas trading branch.

More than 50 kinds of our products, including special handicrafts, carpets and drawnworks, have won both national and international prizes. The group has set up good business relationships with foreign countries, with over 10,000 kinds of arts and crafts exported to more than 130 countries and regions in the world.

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Contact: Li You, Zhang Hongwei

The Ancient Tangbo Road: Princess Wen Cheng's Route to Tibet

For our next issue, we dispatched a team of reporters who spent three years writing about and photographing the route that the Tang-dynasty Princess Wen Cheng took to Tibet over 1,300 years ago to marry the Tubo king Songtsan Gambo. Departing from the Tang capital of Chang'an (present-day Xi'an), the princess travelled through Gansu and vast Qinghai Province, then south to her future home of Lhasa. This route, now known in China as the ancient Tangbo ("Tang" for the Tang Dynasty, "bo" for the kingdom of Tubo) Road, is filled with historical and cultural sites, as well as magnificent scenery. In celebration of China Tourism's 14th anniversary, our next issue will be extra thick, and, we hope, extra special.

NEXT
ISSUE





JH 50

INTRODUCTION TO CHINA JIALING INDUSTRY CO., LTD. (GROUP)

China Jialing Industry Co., Ltd. (Group) is the biggest motorcycle manufacturer in China and also an export-based enterprise for state mechanical electrical products, and is authorized to do both import and

export business.

The main products of this corporation are a series of Jialing Brand Motorcycles such as CJ50-I, CJ50-II, CJ50F, JH50, JH70-I, JH70-II, JH125, JH125L, JH145 and their parts. We also produce Jialing shotgun cartridges, industrial steel balls, bearings and complete sets of equipment. Among these products, Models CJ50 and JH70 motorcycles were each awarded the State's highest silver prize, Model JH125 won the "JUNMA CUP" prize for the State's Newly Developed Products and Jialing's 12-gauge shotgun cartridges won the State's silver prize.

Now the corporation has an annual capacity of more than 500,000 series of motorcycles, 600,000 sets of key engine parts with a displacement from 70cm³ to 125cm³, and 15,000,000 rounds of plastic case shotgun cartridges. Our economic indexes are ranked first among similar domestic trade. In 1990, the corporation was assessed as a National First Grade Enterprise. In recent years it has maintained its title of one of China's 500 large-scale enterprises and enjoys a good reputation both in domestic and foreign markets.

We welcome all friends from home and abroad to write, telephone or come to visit our corporation to undertake co-operative production, joint ventures, compensation trade and processing and assembling according to materials and samples supplied.



JH 70II

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Window Of The World



This is another one of the largest tourist centres established by China Travel Service (Holdings) Hong Kong Limited in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone Overseas Chinese Town. Covering an area of 480,000 sq.m., it adjoins Splendid China Miniature Scenic Spot and China Folk Culture Villages as well. Here we've assembled the marvellous sights and sites of historical interest in the world, the ancient and modern natural landscapes and attractions as well as dwelling houses and celebrated sculptures, etc., totalling 118 scenic spots. Among them are the world-famous Eiffel Tower of France, the Buckingham Palace of Britain, the Pyramid of Egypt, the Grand Canyon of America, the waterside villages in South-East Asia and Europe-style dwelling houses, etc.

Apart from folklore and theatrical performances in the scenic centre, tourists can easily get access to different means of traffic such as the elevated single-track car with a circular route, electromobile, Europe-style ancient carriage, Gypsy caravan, old-fashioned car, monopaddled sampan and pneumatic raft, etc.. And in the comprehensive service area, we cater the delicacies of season, and handicrafts and souvenirs with consummate skills of various countries, which await your choice. What's more, you may even find entertainment on the Carnival Night when teams of artists parade before you by presenting the delightful programmes of multi-national art and culture and customs.

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